

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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BIRTHS.

On 16th October, at Falkirk, N.B., the wife of J. B. PATERSON, "Heung Shan," of a son, [2367]
On 3rd October, at Tientsin, the wife of D. J. BRADY, British Municipality, of a daughter.
On 12th October, at the Hongkong Bank House, Foochow, the wife of C. H. M. BALFOUR, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On 7th October, at the Church of Our Saviour, Shanghai, PERCY FRANCIS WISNER, son of W. H. WISNER, of New York, to MARY SIMS, eldest daughter of R. P. WILSON of Shanghai.
On 10th October, at H. B. M.'s Consulate-General, Shanghai, by Sir Pelham Warren, K.C.M.G., and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, HUGH ELPHINSTONE CAMPBELL, second son of ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., of Bantham, S. Devon and ETHEL MARION, second daughter of Sir PELHAM WARREN, K.C.M.G., H. B. M.'s Consul-General, at Shanghai.

DEATHS.

On 2nd October, at Peking, JESSIE MOLYNEUX RANSOME, aged 48 years
On 8th October, at Tientsin, RUTH, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. JOHN CAMERON.
On 11th October, at Chinkiang, WILLIAM LAW ALLAN, Assistant Engineer, Shanghai-Nanking Railway, aged 26 years.
On 16th October, at Canton, ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL, chief engineer, s.s. Chi Yuen. Accidentally drowned.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of September 22nd arrived, per the s.s. *Arcadia*, on Thursday, the 19th instant.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Northern papers say that the Peking bomb assassin came from South China (a Cantonese).

The Chinese Minister to Russia has petitioned the Government to recall him as he has been there for so long.

It has been ascertained that the "fighting capacity" of the *Mikasa* has not been impaired by the accident which caused her sinking.

The Directors of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited, announce a dividend of 40 per cent. on the paid-up capital.

Messrs. Benjamin Kelly & Potts were advised that the Chinese Engineering and Mining Co., Limited, has declared a dividend (Coupon No. 5) of one shilling per share.

It is said that it will require about one peace division of the Japanese army, or 11,364 men, to provide railway guards for the Japanese portion of the Chinese Eastern Railway.

Mr. C. D. Melbourne, J.P., took his seat for the first time last week at the Magistracy as acting Second Police Magistrate; Mr. G. N. Orme having been granted two months' leave.

A St. Petersburg telegram states that the Russo-East Asiatic Steamship Company announces the opening of a regular service between ports in European Russia and the Far East.

It is now reported that besides her valuable cargo which was insured at \$60,000 the ill-fated *Cantabria* had on board P4) 000 partly belonging to the company and partly to a wealthy Chinaman.

Three high officials have been directed by the Throne to report upon a suggestion that a domestic loan should be floated to buy the Chinese Eastern Railway running through Manchuria.

The body of one of the Chinese women drowned on Monday, when the ferry boat *Evening Star* collided with their sampan, was recovered on Thursday and conveyed to the mortuary at Kowloon.

The St. George's Society of Shanghai announce their intention to give a ball on the 9th of November, being the King's birthday. Many are asking what the St. George's Society of Hongkong intend to do.

The plague return for the week ending the 14th inst. shows two cases only, both fatal. Four European cases of enteric fever were notified, one "imported from Shanghai." There was further one Chinese case of small-pox.

The leasehold property known as section B of Inland Lot No. 164, together with the messuage thereon known as No. 142 Queen's Road Central, which were to have been sold by public auction at Mr. G. P. Lammert's sales rooms on the 17th October, were withdrawn at the last moment.

A Peking dispatch (quoted in the *N.C.D.N.* "Native Notes") states that it has been officially decided to change the name of the Lu-Han Railway to that of Ching-Han, or Peking-Hankow Railway—which is as it should be. Once the line is in working order passengers will be able to easily travel from Peking to Hankow in thirty-six hours.

A telegram from Peking, dated 13th October, to the *N.C. Daily News* said:—The German Minister (Baron A. von Mumm) has called at the Waiwupu and stated that several hundred natives have risen at Yuncheng, Tsao-houfu, Sha.; that they are armed with foreign rifles; and are anti-foreign in sentiment. He urged that the Governor of Shantung should be asked to send troops to suppress them.

A Hangchow dispatch to the *Nanfengpao* states that a French gentleman is now in that city with the object of gaining Governor Nieh Chih-kuei's consent to permit the former to enlist coolies from Ningpo and Taichow prefectures to work on the proposed Yunnan-Annam Railway. In the absence of instructions from the Waiwupu Governor Nieh refused to give his consent to the proposal.

The *Peking Times* says:—In regard to Count Katsura's recent announcement that Japan has obtained, as part of the terms of peace, the privilege of a railway between Kirin and Chanchun, it is pointed out at Tokyo that the distance between these places is about ninety miles, and that the districts on either side of the line are very fertile. The soil there is said to be very suitable for the cultivation of tobacco, wheat, beans, and other valuable crops. Gold dust and various metals, soda, and coal are also found in considerable quantities.

The Nippon Yusen Kaisha has been appointed agents for the Deshler line of steamers. Three steamers, the *Ohio I*, *II*, and *III*, are scheduled to carry on the service and will call at Shanghai, Chefoo, Chianafu, Chemulpo, Fusan, Moji, Kobe, and Osaka. The steamers have accommodation for first, second, and third-class passengers, are electrically lighted, and have steam heating apparatus throughout. The usual privileges of stop-over and interchangeable tickets are granted, and a strict time table is to be kept. The first vessel, the *Ohio II*, is to leave Shanghai on the 22nd inst.

According to the *San Francisco Chronicle* certain evidence implicating doctors and others who have to do with Chinese emigrants from Hongkong has been sent to Washington. Twelve Chinese merchants who allege that they have been held up in Hongkong for contributions of \$50 each, some of whom were "charged with eye trouble," have sent a signed statement that a Chinese interpreter at the American Consulate is the man who collects the funds, the payment of which is supposed to guarantee their landing at San Francisco. The evidence which they have sent to Washington included receipts from the doctors for "treatment" received, and the sum exacted in nearly every case was \$50.

A meeting of Justices of the Peace was held on 16th October, at the magistracy. Mr. F. A. Hazeland presided, and the following justices were present: Mr. G. N. Orme, Captain Goddard, Mr. Craig and Mr. T. H. Hanmer. There being no objection on the part of the police, the Bench granted the two applications for transfers—one being from Moses Cartchel Mitskey for a transfer of the license to retail intoxicating liquors held by Bernard Cohen under the sign of "The Land We Live In" at 332 and 334 Queen's Road Central; and the other from Bernard Mayer for transfer of the similar license held by Annetta Papier under the sign of "The Colonial Hotel." Mr. M. J. D. Stephens appeared for the applicants.

THE BRITISH ARMY.

(Daily Press, 16th October).

If the motto of the British navy is "ready aye ready," it may, without unduly stretching a point be fairly said that that of the British Army ought to be "unready, ever unready." For some unaccountable reason there seems to be an inherent dislike on the part of the British public to anything in the direction of an adequate or efficient army. Whenever difficulties arise, there is the same hurrying and scurrying to set the nation's house in order; and to manage by some supreme effort to get over effects of the most palpable negligence during the time of peace which should have been the opportunity for doing at leisure and thoroughly what has to be done hurriedly and inefficiently at almost a moment's notice when difficulties overtake us. It must be confessed that, when an emergency arises, an amount of resourcefulness is generally displayed which might hardly be expected on the part of those who had before been negligent of what might appear to be the most ordinary precautions; and that somehow the necessary forces have been forthcoming and the difficulty got over. In most cases, however, this has been due more to good fortune than to the efforts, however energetic, that are made when the enemy is actually knocking at the gates. Then there follows a large amount of general criticism and possibly some little stir in the stagnant waters of the War Office, but nothing definite is done, and the next emergency finds us in practically the same position as the last. What the great objection is on the part of the British nation to make itself as efficient on land as at sea, it is difficult to say. There is, of course, the historic objection on the part of Britishers to a standing army as being a menace to liberty, which comes down to us from the days of the Stuarts. This, however, may be taken to have but a slight practical influence in the present day, when constitutional principles are so well established that a danger of this description is of a remote kind. Still, there is a lurking feeling in this direction against anything in the form of militarism, which no doubt has its influence in conjunction with other and more immediate considerations. Then there is also a feeling, unexpressed but none the less effective, that to lean upon the Army too much is to admit a want of confidence in the Navy, as an absolute security against any possible danger to the country. This string has been harped upon pretty strongly of late, and Mr. BALFOUR has shown *par raison demonstrative* that an invasion of Great Britain is an absolute impossibility. Mr. GLADSTONE was equally successful with his "silver streak," which was the safeguard of the country against all possible danger and a standing reason for cutting down the Army estimates. Unfortunately, however, for this comfortable view of the subject the best military authorities are against it, and have over and over again raised a warning voice, the necessity for which it is to be feared may be recognised when it is too late. It is, of course, not to be denied that the views of military men on such a subject have to be accepted with a certain amount of caution. People naturally have a tendency to over-estimate the importance of their particular professions, and military men may be as much subjected to this infirmity of human nature as any other persons. But against this, it must not be overlooked that the military are the only authorities upon whom we can rely, and the subject is far too serious to permit us

to discount their warnings too lightly. It is astonishing that so able a soldier and so tried a public servant as LORD ROBERTS should find it difficult to make an impression upon the British public, but such unfortunately seems to be the case, as he has ever since the last war raised his voice against the false security in which we have been content to go on. He appears at last to have attracted some attention by two powerful speeches which he made on the subject—one in the House of Lords and the other at the Mansion House. In the former he did not hesitate to state that the country had forgotten the lessons of the war in South Africa and that it was as unprepared for war now as it was at the outbreak of hostilities then. Coming from such a source this warning could hardly be passed by and it is to be hoped that they may have the effect of at last causing some practical steps to be taken. The nation has managed to scrape out of difficulties so often that sanguine persons hope it will always be able to do so. But the probabilities are, of course, really all the other way, especially in these days of rapid communication, which result in war being begun as soon as it is declared. The time during which steps can be taken to put things right on an emergency actually arising will become less and less as means of transport are improved; and the danger of being unprepared at a given moment must be proportionately increased. The nation has, therefore, to be absolutely prepared for emergencies, not only at home but in many directions abroad, and it will not do in these days to put off necessary precaution till the last moment. LORD ROBERTS' authority ought, surely, to be sufficient to impress this upon the nation; but past experience hardly warrants us being too sanguine on the subject. There is a feeling that after all the danger may possibly never arise, and that it is idle to anticipate trouble. But those who are inclined to think in this way may well lay to heart a saying of LORD PALMERSTON's that precautions never appear so unnecessary as when they are entirely successful. If we take care that invasion will be futile, the likelihood is that none will ever be attempted; but it does not follow that an attempt might not be made if such precautions are known to continue neglected.

THE PHILIPPINES.

(Daily Press, 17th October.)

"A little reflection," observes a Manila paper, "is an excellent antidote for the wail of woe that is so frequently heard concerning the condition of Philippine affairs generally." This was written *a propos* a lecture delivered by General SMITH on "The Days of the Empire," in which he reviewed the progress of events in the Philippine Islands from the commencement of the war with Spain until now when "the days of the Empire" have passed away, and civil government has been established, giving to the Filipino people a voice in their own local affairs which they never enjoyed before and "our common country has entered upon the experiment of unselfishly aiding, advancing and bettering the people of an alien race." It is an experiment which has never been tried before—by the same methods—and the GENERAL told his audience that even some good Americans hesitate and doubt its expediency.

"Let me remind them all" exclaimed the General "that when the American Republic, the greatest republic of modern or ancient times, was founded, the same prophets of evil stood at its cradle and predicted that no good could follow from such a radical

departure from established custom and habit. Let me remind them that no important step in the onward march of the American nation has been taken without someone, sometime, somewhere hesitating as to its expediency or doubting as to its wisdom. Let me remind them that since our country took her place among the nations of the earth her record has not been one of failure, but success, and that as every problem vitally affecting her own people has been properly solved it is only fair to presume that the same success will attend her efforts in behalf of the people of the Philippines. For every true American, it is no longer a question of whether one policy or another was best adapted to the case. The prestige of the country is now wedded beyond the power of divorce to the policy to which it stands irrevocably committed, and every American, whether he be soldier or civilian, will see to it that the making of a new people capable and able to govern themselves is not beyond the powers of the American Republic."

It is not, of course, entirely out of pure philanthropy, or for the gratification of a wish to teach the world something new in colonial administration that America continues to spend millions of dollars every year on public works, and on the education of the natives. Great hopes have been built on the commercial value of the islands to America, but such has been the experience of American business men who have come out to the islands that the gospel of hope needs a lot of preaching just now. While politically the situation has improved immensely in the space of three or four years, the same can hardly be said of commerce. But, "hope, springs eternal in the human breast," the poet tells us. "The American who stays out here will win out," says one of Manila's newspapers. Commercial conditions, it is confessed, are at low tide, but this, according to the newspaper, only means "a chance to get in on the ground floor, and take advantage of the rise when it comes, as it certainly will with the new railroads, developed agriculture and revised tariff conditions." But for the present evidently the only thing to say to the disappointed American in the Philippines is "Hope on!" The cry of the merchant in the Philippines is for tariff protection and free trade with the United States; but the appeal does not command a great deal of support or sympathy at home. There are sugar and tobacco interests in the United States as well as in the Philippines, and it is the men on the spot who have the ear of Congress. Senator PAYNE, who is working for the Philippine merchants in Congress, has recently uttered in his despair the remark that the reform of the tariff conditions in the Philippines must be worked by the business men of the islands. "The business man of the islands is overworked," says one Manila newspaper. "What has the business man not done to establish better trade relations and readjust the tariff?" asks another, and replies to the question by saying: "He has petitioned and argued and written and demonstrated till he has covered the whole field, and we are still on the outside of the tariff wall." The greatest need of the day, we are told, is for men like SENATOR PAYNE who will understand "the absurdity of the alarm of the home producers and the needs of our young commerce over here."

On the 15th October a collision between two electric trams took place on the Shaukiwan road. Apparently the driver in charge of a car had omitted to make the usual tests of the brakes before leaving the depot that morning, with the result that the car failed to stop at one of the loops and crashed into the other car before it left the single line. The front of the one tram and the rear of the other were smashed, and the passengers had to leave each conveyance.

TEA DRINKING IN ENGLAND.

(Daily Press, 18th October).

The British people have long been regarded as the greatest tea-drinkers in Europe, but until the Board of Trade published its memorandum which we briefly summarised in our issue of yesterday, few of us can have imagined our tea consumption in the United Kingdom to be so enormously greater than the consumption in any other country of Europe. We have it, however, officially set down that in the United Kingdom over 6lbs. of tea per head of the population are consumed yearly and that there is no other country in Europe, with the exception of Holland, where the consumption exceeds 1lb. per head. In view of what the memorandum tells us of the consumption of tea and the decline which has taken place in the cost of it to the consumer, it is very interesting to glance back over the history of tea in England. One of the earliest recorded instances of tea-drinking in England probably is to be found in the eternally interesting "Diary" of SAMUEL PEPPYS. In 1660, PEPPYS wrote: "I did send for a cup of tea (a China drink) of which I never had drank before," but it was not until seven years later apparently that "the herb" found its way to his own house. At all events it is recorded in the year 1667 in these terms: "Home, and there find my wife making of tea: a drink which Mr. PELLING, the Potticary, tells her is good for her cold." Mr. PELLING, the Potticary, had sold the tea to Mrs. PEPPYS at a most enormous price—a crown an ounce at the very least. She had tasted the liquor once before; but then there was sugar in the infusion—a beverage only for the highest. She reflected that if tea should become fashionable, it would cost in house-keeping as much as their claret. PEPPYS, however, assured his wife that the price was coming down; and he produced the handbill of THOMAS GARWAY, in Exchange Alley, which the lady perused with great satisfaction, for the worthy merchant says that although "tea in England hath been sold in the leaf for six pounds and sometimes for ten pounds the pound weight," he "by continued care and industry in obtaining the best tea" was now able to "sell tea for 16s. to 50s. per lb." GARWAY mentions that he not only sold tea in the leaf but "many noblemen, physicians, merchants, etc., daily resort to his house to drink the drink thereof." Coffee and tea came into England as twin brothers, and by-and-by there sprang up all over London the famous coffee-houses, many of which have their merits enshrined in some of the best literature of the country.

It has been said that the history of tea from its first introduction to England, may be read in the history of taxation. The first tax is, indeed, a curious illustration of the mode of its sale. By an act of CHARLES II (1670) a duty of eighteen pence was imposed upon "every gallon of chocolate, sherbet, and tea, made and sold, to be paid by the makers thereof," and we may infer from this that tea was practically unknown as a general article of diet even of the wealthiest. This mode of taxation must have required the presence of an excise officer in every coffee-house. Though the aforesaid Mr. GARWAY proclaimed that physicians among others daily resorted to his house to drink tea, there is abundant record of fact that doctors generally denounced its use and wits railed against it; but it nevertheless grew in favour. In 1688 the method of taxation was changed to a Customs duty of five shillings per pound, and this lasted

for half a century. Tea was so expensive a luxury apparently that in the *Tatler* of 1710 it is stated on the authority of an "antiquary who has searched the registers in which the bills of fare of the Court are recorded," that instead of tea and bread and butter, which had prevailed of late years, the maids of honour in QUEEN ELIZABETH's time were allowed "three rumps of beef for their breakfast"! We have no record of the number catered for, but in charity assume the number to have been large indeed. Yet in spite of prohibitory tariffs tea forced its way into common use, and when in 1745 the Government reduced the taxation to "1s. per lb. and 25 per cent. on the gross price" the consumption increased by leaps and bounds. In 1745 the home consumption was 730,729 lbs.; the following year that figure was trebled. Men began to rail at the excessive use of tea which in 1748 was described as having become "so common that the meanest families, even of labouring people, particularly in boroughs, make their morning meal of it, and thereby wholly disuse the ale, which heretofore was their accustomed drink; and the same drug supplies all the labouring women with their afternoon's entertainments to the exclusion of the twopenny." Notwithstanding the ridicule of the wits, and the prejudices of those who urged that the popular use of tea would ruin agriculture by diminishing the demand for malt liquors, a view taken by various administrations in the eighteenth century, who accordingly adopted as a policy the fiscal folly of prohibition—the tea-drinking habit had become so rooted in the people that no efforts of the government could destroy it. When the excise duty was repealed in 1834, and retail prices were brought down to a figure within the means of the general populace the consumption increased remarkably. In 1833 the consumption of tea in the United Kingdom was ten million pounds more than it was sixteen years before. In the next fifteen years, bringing us down to 1848, the nation was consuming seventeen millions more than in 1833, the total amount retained for home consumption in 1848 being 48,735,791 lbs. When it is stated that the consumption in the United Kingdom is now over 250 million pounds a year, it simply shows what "hardened and shameless tea-drinkers" the English people have become. It is an interesting speculation whether the fact of the extraordinary popularity of tea in England is not traceable to the prohibitive taxation placed upon it in its early days. Even in the early part of the last century tea which sold for eight shillings in England could be procured for fourteen pence in Hamburg. The very expensiveness of the article, combined with the avowed hostility of the brewers towards it, probably only increased the eagerness of the people to procure it.

EUROPEAN COALITIONS.

(Daily Press, 19th October.)

Thanks mainly to the good sense of King OSCAR, the partition of Sweden and Norway, which for some time seemed not unlikely to lead to an internecine struggle between the two Scandinavian monarchies, has been brought to a peaceful conclusion, and the two nations, though not under one head, have come to recognise the fact that each and both have been saved from a great danger. But not only are the Scandinavian States to be congratulated on the result but the whole of Europe, as there is now no doubt that one of the first results of a war between the States would have been a claim on the part of Russia and Germany to

declare the Baltic a closed sea. England bound by the traditions of centuries to friendship with both countries could have taken part with neither. Russia does not feel quite assured with regard to her hold on Finland, and has contrived to alienate the Scandinavian population of that country; to render herself more secure she has been desirous of what she calls a rectification of her frontiers along the Arctic Ocean, and it was presumed that Norway would have had no objection to cede her Finmark, which would have given her what she is most desirous of, an ice-free port opening directly on the Atlantic coast. Surrounded on all sides, Sweden would have been helpless, and the moral effect on the Finlanders of having a free Scandinavian State in close proximity would have been effectually counteracted. It seems strange that in the beginning of the dispute Norway did not sufficiently appreciate the consequence of pressing her claims à l'outrance, and that it was only through the superior political prescience of the King and the Government of Sweden that the great common danger has been momentarily, at least, averted. The only source of gratification left is that at the last moment both nations did come to see the danger to themselves, and that now that all possible sources of dispute have been removed, both are better able to see the primary necessity of a close alliance.

But Sweden and Norway are not the only two countries where internal differences, in reality of very little moment to either, have been raised to the position of international ill-feeling. The second instance is perhaps of greater importance to the peace of Europe. For centuries Austria and Hungary have similarly been two independent countries with different political aspirations united under the one dynastic head. Such a close connection demands rare administrative abilities on the part of the ruling house, but the House of HAPSBURG has been from its first accession to the Imperial dignity singularly wanting in those qualities which go to make great leaders, and from the time of the election of RUDOLF, Count of HAPSBURG, till its final extinction in 1906, their want served as a basis for the continuous weakening of the Empire. The Congress of Vienna did not attempt to restore the Empire, but made a curious compromise, and reinstated the House of HAPSBURG as Emperors of Austria, giving them a very extensive state indeed, but one composed of very dissimilar elements, partly German, but also, so far as mere population is concerned, more largely Magyar and Slavonic. The HAPSBURGS had no more loyal subjects than the people of Hungary, whose traditions always recalled their great "king," as they loved to call the Empress MARIA THERESA, but, acting on the bad traditions of the so-called "Holy Alliance," no sooner was FRANCIS, the first Emperor of Austria, restored to power than he proceeded to treat Hungary as a conquered country, and subordinated her independence to the German provinces. The result was the rebellion of 1848. NICOLAS I. of Russia, which was then in the plenitude of its power, sent an army into Hungary on behalf of the Holy Alliance and, having routed the insurgents, handed back the country to the HAPSBURGS. Placed between two fires the then Emperor FERDINAND resigned in favour of his nephew FRANCIS JOSEPH, who at first was disposed to accept a liberal constitution; but finding himself overpowered by his German advisers he, however, renewed the old policy. After the loss of the Italian dependencies of the House of Austria his councils prevailed, and in 1866 the Hun-

garian constitution was restored, and in the next year the new rule of the double monarchy was established, under which for upwards of thirty years Austro-Hungary continued to flourish. Under pretence of strengthening the Ausgleich, however, some three years ago, the old system of subordinating Hungary to the German province of Austria recommenced; objected to in a mild manner by Hungary. The breach thus unwisely commenced has been widening ever since. An arrangement in the interests of both parties was two years ago quite feasible, but the opportunity was lost; and the EMPEROR, under the influence of unwise councillors, has proceeded to measures more or less unconstitutional. Doubtless most of these were momentarily necessary for keeping the state together, and had measures been taken to return at the earliest possible moment to the previous position, they would have been willingly accepted by the Hungarians. This, unfortunately was not done; and the mistaken policy of the EMPEROR was persisted in, and all attempts at compromise rudely rejected. Conscious that they form the most powerful, and until the events of the last few years, the most loyal element in the dual Empire, the Hungarians are now as eager for a separation from their incongenial partners as have been the Norwegians, and, it must be allowed with far greater reason on their side.

Europe is, if possible, still more deeply interested in the result. Any movement which would weaken the consistency of the Dual Empire is welcomed eagerly at the courts of Berlin and St. Petersburg; and the dreadful consequences to the Austrian subjects of FRANCIS JOSEPH which the priority, or even equality of Hungary would imply, are carefully kept in their mind's eye. Unfortunately a comparatively small but mischievous minority of the Austrian subjects of the Austrian Empire are not themselves untinged with these dangerous fancies; and would be quite ready to back up any advances of Germany, even at the cost of their own political extinctions,—and this it is that renders the present quarrel, carefully fermented by these unpatriotic subjects of the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH, so prophetic of evil. Russia has not yet realised that morally she has ceased to be a factor in the progress of the world, and her rulers, so far from rightly interpreting the signs of the times, are still as eager as ever to interfere with their more peaceful neighbours.

THE HONGKONG BRANCH OF THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

(Daily Press, 20th October.)

A CORRESPONDENT a few weeks ago inquired in our columns whether the local branch of the China Association was as moribund as its London Committee was alleged to be. The Report on the work of the local branch during the last eighteen months has just been issued, and this will afford very satisfactory proof that the Association is a vitalising force in our midst, and has done much for the protection and advancement of British interests in a quiet, unostentatious but withal very effective manner. The Annual Report reveals in the first place that it is to the persistence of the Committee of the local branch of the Association that we owe the gratifying progress which has been made towards providing the line of railway which is to connect us with Canton. We had learnt from previous reports of the unavailing efforts made by the Committee to impress upon the Foreign Office and the

British and Chinese Corporation the urgent importance of the line. Matters took a satisfactory turn in May last year when the Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART, after paying a visit to the North of China, wrote a letter of considerable length to Mr. R. C. WILCOX, who was then the Chairman of the Hongkong Committee of the China Association, relating what he had seen and heard of railway construction in the North, and, applying the moral, suggested that if the British and Chinese Corporation were unable to use effectively the concession they held for the construction of a line from Kowloon to Canton, the Colony would be well advised to endeavour to have the concession handed over to itself. "Presuming that a clean concession be acquired the annual cost to the Colony of a guarantee of say 4 per cent. would," Mr. STEWART urged, "be a justifiable risk, if merely as an insurance against a port being opened which might do Hongkong irreparable mischief." Mr. STEWART suggested to the Committee that in the event of their agreeing with these views they should form themselves into a deputation and wait upon HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT with recommendations along the lines above indicated, which are fully set forth in the letter. This suggestion was at once adopted, and for the first time we have "published by permission" the report of the interview which then took place; Mr. R. C. WILCOX, as Chairman, being the spokesman and reading a lengthy address which sets out with great strength and clearness the case for prompt action along the lines which the Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART had suggested. In the Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G., the Officer then administering the Government, the deputation found, as they anticipated, a sympathetic listener and a warm advocate of the early construction of the line, if necessary with the guarantee of the Government. The result was that when Sir MATTHEW NATHAN came to take up the reins of Government in the Colony he announced himself in his first public speech as in favour of the early prosecution of this important work. Then after resigning themselves to "a policy of temporary inaction, waiting with what patience they might for some settlement of certain questions unknown," the China Association laid before the GOVERNOR an expression of their opinion on the subject and urged HIS EXCELLENCY to take the earliest opportunity of forwarding it to the RIGHT HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES. The result, as all know now, is that the Hongkong Government has undertaken to construct that portion of the railway which will lie in British Territory; a survey of the route is being made, and H.E. THE GOVERNOR has been given by the Legislative Council the necessary authority to raise a loan for the construction of the line. For this result, as we have shown, the community is largely indebted to the persistent advocacy of the China Association. No less than twenty-six pages of the Appendix are devoted to correspondence on this important subject, and the whole is well worth reading. The Committee has besides dealt with such matters as the Reform of the Currency in China; they have been instrumental in changing a vexatious order of the Imperial Maritime Customs with regard to steamer permits on the West River; they have dealt with the transit pass question in Yunnan; with the rights of neutral shipping during war; with the Russian occupation of Newchwang; the question of new Treaty Ports in Manchuria; the employment of capital in railway enterprises in China, and

matters of a like nature—making altogether a very satisfactory body of evidence that the Association is a really useful and necessary organization in our midst and deserving the warmest recognition as such by the entire British community.

We cannot, however, omit to take notice of the letters in the Appendix indicating that it has been felt by merchants in China that the London Committee of the China Association has in the past been apathetic and has not done as much as it might have done to vigorously urge upon the attention of the Home Government the views of British merchants in China upon questions which from time to time arise. It has seriously been proposed in Shanghai that the China Association should amalgamate with or allow itself to be absorbed by an association called the China League. If such an association exists we have, in common with the Hongkong Committee of the China Association, to confess our ignorance of any of its achievements. The China Association, on the other hand, has long been established and, having the ear of the Foreign Office, it has done through its London Committee some very useful work of which the annual reports have afforded satisfactory proof. The nature of the work of the Association does not admit of constant advertisement, and on this account, perhaps, the Association does not enjoy as much public recognition of its value as it is fairly entitled to receive. But we should hardly have credited the *London Times* with ignorance of the existence of such a body, and we were consequently surprised to read recently in the leading London journal the following comment:—"What is urgently needed, amongst other things, is a strong and united organization in this country (England) which, instead of being subservient to individual interests or political wire-pulling, shall act as the accredited and responsible mouthpiece of the great British communities in the treaty ports of China." Either the *Times* is (1) actually ignorant of the existence of the China Association; or (2) does not regard it as a strong and united organization; or (3) considers it a body "subservient to individual interests or political wire-pulling." The last suggestion we may altogether dismiss, and it only remains to be said that if the China Association is not "a strong and united association," it rests entirely with the British communities in China to make it such, and so strengthen the influence of the London Committee that it will compel more recognition than it apparently does to-day as their accredited and responsible mouthpiece.

The following comment on the currency question of China is extracted from a letter sent to the *N.C. Daily News* by its correspondent at Kashing, Che:—"Within the space of a few months the price of the silver dollar has run from 89 to 980 cash and the prospects are of a further rise. If we remember aright the dollar has not brought as much cash for the past ten years. And the causes of this sudden fluctuation are not hard to seek. The old cash pieces containing, they say, more metal in actual value than the face value calls for, have been melted down in large numbers. And on the other hand the market has been flooded with cheap ten-cash pieces. Whereas only a few years ago there were no small pieces of silver in circulation in the interior, and no ten-cent cash pieces, and the silver dollar changed into cash pieces only, now with the advent of both small silver and ten-cash pieces the cash is harder to get hold of than it was then. Certainly it does not take a prophet or the son of a prophet to foresee that, unless some drastic remedy is applied, there will be a panic in the Chinese money market before long."

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

16th October.

As the removal of the Clock Tower has been advocated occasionally in this column, I feel called upon to offer a few remarks on the contributed articles and letters which have appeared in the *Daily Press* in the past week pleading for its retention as a memorial of Old Hongkong. I have not advocated that the structure should be thrown into the sea, but more than twelve months ago, as you have already mentioned, Mr. Editor, the suggestion was made in this column that an appropriate place for the clock would be on the new Post Office building. His Excellency the Governor, I observe, now has that suggestion under consideration. It is interesting to recall the fact that when the scheme for a Clock Tower was in the consideration stage in the early 'Sixties the entire cost of the Tower and the Clock (about \$6,000, I believe) was offered to Sir Hercules Robinson, the Governor of the day, to combine the scheme with a new Post Office which was at that time being discussed. The offer was for some unpublished reason declined, and from the day the structure was erected it has had the charge of being an obstruction to traffic levelled at it.

Several contributors to the discussion have strenuously denied that it constitutes an obstruction to traffic; but how a structure erected in the centre of this important thoroughfare at its junction with Queen's Road, leaving only, I suppose, about twelve feet of space on either side of it for the traffic, can be described otherwise than as an obstruction I cannot conceive. Watch the traffic there especially at dusk in the summer time when numbers of people are returning from bathing pinnies, landing at Blake Pier and coming up Pedder Street in chairs or rickshas on their way home. No "rule of the road" is observed by the ricksha or chair men, and richshas making their way from Queen's road west, say to Blake Pier, turn sharply round the nearest corner and the chances of collision are obvious. It has been said that the amount of traffic passing up and down Pedder Street has diminished since the trams commenced to run along Des Voeux Road. Possibly that is the case, but I think the discussion has been raised at a most opportune moment, for when the new Post Office and the new Law Courts are opened the volume of traffic passing up and down Pedder Street will certainly be greatly increased and the Tower will consequently be more of an obstruction than it has ever been before. To remove the clock to the Post Office building will, as I have indicated, be in accordance with the views of the subscribers to the Tower.

Highly elated perhaps over the success of his compatriot in the boxing contests at the City Hall on Saturday night, a massive, coloured American sailor proceeded to demonstrate his satisfaction in the square outside the hall. An Indian constable on duty there, concluding that the sailor was disturbing the peace and tranquility of the neighbourhood, forthwith took him in charge and was marching him up to the Central Station before Jonathan was aware of what was happening. As soon as he realised into whose clutches he had fallen he proceeded to display his knowledge of the manly art, and after pummelling the constable, pulled off his turban and began to play football with it. Another sailor prevented the obstreperous one from doing further damage; the constable regained his turban, but refrained from rearresting his man. He was not conversant, apparently with boxing tactics, and having no knowledge of "guarding," preferred to keep a safe distance from so dangerous an opponent.

The remark casually dropped by our Puisne Judge recently that he worked on Sundays has served in Japan as a text for a little homily to the judges of the land of "the Risen Sun" as Baron Suematsu has re-christened it. Mr. Justice Wise in saying without a blush that he took up his "criminal cases" for Sunday reading recently must have shocked the Divinity student who noticed the fact duly chronicled in the newspapers. But this statement and the impatience shown by the judge towards a solicitor's plea that he hadn't had time to go

through certain accounts has been commended by the *Japan Herald* to the notice of "the Japanese judges who are so fond of adjournments on the slightest pretext," and the Yokohama journal remarks that if only they would copy the methods in vogue here, less would be heard of the scandalous delays of the law in Japan.

A correspondent asks me why the price of coals is being put up now that the summer is drawing to a close. The increase this year has been no less than three dollars a ton. We have I suppose, to put it all down to the war, but as the Japanese have secured some exceedingly valuable coal mines in Manchuria, the price of coal ought not to stand at the present figure long.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 17th October at the Board Room. Hon. Dr. F. Clark (president) presided, and there were also present: Dr. W. W. Pease, M.O.H. Major Josling, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Dr. Macfarlane, Mr. H. W. Slade, Mr. A. W. Mr. W. Hon. Brewin, Chatham, Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., Mr. Lau Chu Pak and Mr. G. A. Woodcock (secretary).

CLEAN BILLS OF HEALTH.

Mr. POLLOCK had given notice of his intention to move the following resolution "That, in view of the small number and the intermittent occurrence of cases of plague at the close of the plague season, it is desirable that the present practice to as granting clean bills of health in connection with plague cases should be modified." Mr. Pollock now asked permission to postpone the motion until the next meeting of the Board, as he had not got together all the data and figures which he would like to place before the meeting when moving such resolution.

There being no objection, a postponement was granted.

INSUFFICIENT LATRINE AND URINAL ACCOMMODATION.

With regard to the report as to insufficient accommodation of this sort at Tsimchatsoi Point the M.O.H. and A.M.O.H. reported as follows:—"It is impossible to suggest a site for a latrine which will not cause some person or persons to complain, but we think that the site which would be least objectionable and, at the same time, convenient is a piece of ground near I. L. 909. We have also interviewed the Secretary of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. on the question of latrine accommodation in the company's ground. It appears that shortly the portion of Chater Road on the Harbour side of Macdonnell Road is to be enclosed by the company and the secretary suggests that he will then close the entrance to his coolie latrine from Macdonnell Road, and also the windows of the latrine opening into the road, making an entrance only from the company's private land. Should this not be found sufficient to remove cause of complaint he is prepared to do away with the latrine and replace it by erecting one on the roof of the coolie quarters on M. L. 11. In this position it is not likely to give cause of complaint as a similar structure has for a long time existed on the roof of the company's quarters on M. L. 10 without causing annoyance to anyone. In addition to this, to prevent the latrines becoming a nuisance through being inadequate to meet the requirements of the coolies employed during the day by the company, the secretary is willing to erect here and there, close to the front of the company's property, several small latrines.

The PRESIDENT moved that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary for the information of His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. RUMJAHN seconded the motion, which was carried.

A QUESTION OF LAW.

The general manager of the Electric Tramway Co. Ltd., wrote bringing under the notice of the Board the want of latrine accommodation at Kennedy Town.

The M.O.H. minuted—"There is already a public latrine close to the junction of Queen's Road West with the Praya at Kennedy Town. I do not think there is at present any urgent necessity for another further west."

The President in a minute wrote that he considered it was the duty of the Tramway Co. to provide accommodation for its employees in this part, and it was not clear from the manager's letter whether he wished the Government to erect the latrine or proposed that the company should erect it. If the Tramway Company was an "industrial establishment," section 163 would require them to erect the latrine to the satisfaction of the Board.

Mr. POLLOCK did not think it desirable that this question of law should be discussed at the meeting, and moved that the matter be referred to the Crown Solicitor for his opinion.

The motion was seconded by Mr. RUMJAHN and carried.

A NUISANCE AT ALEXANDRA BUILDING.

Messrs Lane, Crawford and Co., wrote to the Board complaining of a nuisance caused by the state of the lane between their building and Alexandra Building, through refuse being dumped into the lane by the different floors of Alexandra Building.

The M.O.H., who visited the lane with a Sanitary Inspector, reported that he found every justification for Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co's complaint, the nuisance being caused in the following ways:—The servants sweep all the dirt and rubbish from the verandahs of their quarters into the lane below. Several absolutely inadequate sinks had been placed in the verandahs with small connecting pipes leading into a down pipe with hopper heads below each verandah level and when the sinks are used the water splashes over the verandahs into the lane below, and the hopper heads are not adequately connected with the verandahs. Several of the rooms are used as kitchens by the servants and the food refuse is washed over the floors into the lane. He therefore recommended the following steps to abate the nuisance: The present open-work railings should be replaced by solid structures so that no refuse could be washed through to the lane; the sinks on the verandahs should be removed to within the kitchens; the hopper heads should be connected to the verandahs, so that washings from the kitchens would be carried into the instead of being washed into the lane; at the corners of the verandahs four inch pipes should be fixed to take all washings to the hopper heads, so that it could not splash below; a small surface channel should be formed along one side of the kitchen and the floor sloped to it. These requirements were all that should be necessary to stop the nuisance, but, of course it was impossible to prevent servants from wilfully throwing filth into the lane, and this practice could only be dealt with by prosecution of the offender, should he luckily be caught.

Mr. RUMJAHN minuted—"The practice of emptying urinals into down pipes has become general among servants in large blocks of buildings causing a great annoyance and nuisance to the stores below. This should be rigidly stopped."

Mr. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C., agreed with Mr. Rumjahn.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK was also of the same opinion. But where was the urine to be taken to? The people living in the houses were not allowed to carry pots downstairs and empty them into the drains. A place should be provided for its reception in every house.

The PRESIDENT in a minute, said the trouble was to catch the offender. When he was caught in *flagrante delicto* he could be prosecuted. The Sanitary Surveyors required the owners to provide a trap connecting to the drains, and this was being done.

The PRESIDENT said there had been a lot of complaint about the refuse from those offices recently built on the Praya front, and officers of the Sanitary Department had gone to a considerable amount of trouble in endeavouring to obtain an abatement of the nuisance. He thought under the circumstances, and as the matter had been discussed more or less publicly, that some of the correspondence should be laid before the Board. The Sanitary officers were doing their best to

get the nuisance abated; letters had been written to the firms whose servants were offending in the matter and, accompanied by the Sanitary Surveyor, he had paid a number of visits to the place to see what could be done. Everything under their present powers was being done that could be done but, at the same time, he thought the matter should be brought before the Board. He thought that if they referred the matter to the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Surveyor to take such steps as they found necessary to abate the nuisance, it would serve as an assurance to the Board that everything possible was being done.

Mr. BREWIN—In the report I notice that several inadequate sinks have been placed in the verandahs. Does that mean that they have been placed there since the erection of the building?

The PRESIDENT—Yes.

Mr. BREWIN—And are the occupiers allowed to use those rooms as kitchens?

The PRESIDENT—I don't know that we have any power to prevent it; but they have to comply with the kitchen regulations.

Mr. RUMJAHN wished to draw the Board's attention to paragraph 3 of the Scavenging and Conservancy bye-laws where it was stated that the occupier or landlord should make due provision for the removal of all refuse, waste, etc. He thought the occupier of the whole building was responsible for the throwing of urine into the downpipe and that it was his duty to cause its removal into dust boats. He took it that if servants threw any excreta matter into downpipes the occupier was responsible.

The PRESIDENT—That is a matter which must be decided by a magistrate. If it were the wish of the Board, the M.O.H. could be instructed to institute a prosecution to see whether the magistrate held Mr. Rumjahn's view.

Mr. RUMJAHN said offences like the present one were the general practice here. He knew of a case where the occupier of a top floor had been repeatedly cautioned.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK thought it was unreasonable to proceed against a master for the action of his servant. The master could never find out what his servant did, and in his presence the servant would not do anything of the kind. He did not agree with Mr. Rumjahn.

The PRESIDENT quite agreed with Mr. Lau Chu Pak. There were many actions of servants which a tenant could be hardly held responsible for, and this was one of them. What they could do as a Sanitary Board was to require provision of downpipes and ordinary sanitary arrangements which would render the excreta innocuous if run into such pipes. He moved that the matter be referred to the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Surveyor to take such steps as might be necessary to abate the nuisance.

Mr. LAU CHU PAK seconded and the motion was carried.

EXAMINATION OF SAMPLES.

Mr. Frank Brown, Government Analyst, reported having examined samples of milk, whisky and rum. Of twelve samples of milk only one was found adulterated, while the examination of four samples of whisky and four of rum proved that all were genuine.

LIMEWASHING.

For the fortnight ended 10th October, 4,412 houses were limewashed in the Eastern and 3,765 in the Central district.

RAT RETURN.

For the week ended 7th October 599 rats were caught of which 21 were found to be infected. Of the 672 caught for the week ended 14th October, 18 were infected.

A meeting of sanitary officials was held this week at the Sanitary Board office, under the chairmanship of Dr. Clarke, for the discussion of the Government proposals for the transfer of the Widows and Orphans Pension Fund in connection with the civil servants in the Colony. The unmarried men feel aggrieved under the present conditions as they contribute equally with the married men, and have no prospective return for their payments as in the case of the latter. Various schemes were discussed, among them the propriety of handing the money over to an insurance company, but the meeting was adjourned for further consideration of the question.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 16th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

A QUESTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

The case was continued in which Wong Chik Yuen, alias Wong Chi Shi, sued Leung Tsun Tung and another for \$1,000, part of a sum of \$1,177.06 due for the balance of principal and interest lent by the plaintiff to the Kung Sun firm on the 27th January, 1903.

The sum of \$177.06 was waived by the plaintiff in order to bring the action within the summary jurisdiction of the Court.

Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. H. Hursthouse (of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley's office) represented the defendants.

After hearing further evidence his Worship, in delivering judgment, stated that the actions of the defendants led him to believe they must necessarily be partners. Judgment would therefore be given for the plaintiff with costs.

Tuesday, 17th October.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

CLAIM FOR GOODS SUPPLIED.

Tak Cheung Tai, trader, of No. 8 Circular Pathway, sued Tung Tai and Cheung Hop, lately trading under the style of the Yan Wo Cheung, to recover the sum of \$48.63, balance due for goods supplied.

Mr. R. Harding (of Messrs. Ewens, Harston and Harding) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. R. A. Harding represented the Tung Tai firm.

Mr. R. Harding stated that all the goods in respect of which the money was claimed were delivered to the Yan Wo Cheung, mentioned in the writ as having as partners Tung Tai and Cheung Hok. In the middle of the present Chinese year the Yan Wo Cheung closed and the Tung Tai sprang up in its place. It was practically the same firm, and he would prove to his Lordship through a partner that the Tung Tai took over the business of the Yan Wo Cheung, also its assets and liabilities. He could produce an acknowledgment that the money was owing the Yan Wo Cheung.

On the evidence his Lordship gave judgment for the defendants with costs.

Wednesday, 18th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

ATTEMPTED MURDER AND ASSAULT.

Chan Lai, boatman, was indicted on the charges of feloniously attempting to drown Detective Li Kun Fuk, with intent to kill and murder the said detective, and with assaulting the said police officer while in the execution of his duty.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty and the following were empanelled as a jury:—M. Manuk (foreman), J. C. McCorquodale, J. Lysaght, W. E. Claret, C. F. Gray, S. W. Uldall and R. C. Hurley.

Sir H. S. Berkeley, Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and the prisoner was undefended.

In informing his Lordship and the jury of the facts, the Attorney-General said the prisoner was charged on two counts. One was with attempting to drown a police officer, and the other with assaulting him while in the execution of his duty. At about two o'clock on the morning of the 2nd October the detective was on duty in the harbour in plain clothes with the object of catching, if he could, what might be called coal thieves. A number of men owning small craft, such as the boat owned by the prisoner, called shrimping boats, made it a practice of stealing coal at night. The detective was that morning on the watch for such persons

He had taken a sampan from Tsimchatsoi and gone to Wanchai Bay where he made fast to a junk. About five o'clock in the morning he saw a fishing boat pass. He followed in his sampan and observed that the boat was joined by three others. He boarded one and seized a man with the object of arresting him. The man resisted and struck the detective, and men from the other boats joined in the attack upon him. The detective blew his whistle but it was snatched from him and he was thrown into the water. Fortunately he could swim. When he rose to the surface, he says the men in the boats struck him with bamboos and kept him from getting back on to the boat; they threatened to kill his own sampan's crew if they assisted him. According to his story he swam about for some time and then dived under the boats which surrounded him. When he came to the surface he was again struck at with poles, and feeling exhausted, drew the revolver with which he was armed and fired, hitting one of the men on the boat. Three of the boats then pulled away, and he climbed on to the fourth, covering the people on board with his weapon. He found on board the prisoner, the man who was shot and ten tons of coal; the prisoner was unable to give a satisfactory account of how he came in possession of the coal. The unfortunate man who was shot, died, and at the inquest the jury returned a verdict of justifiable homicide. The detective was unable to say what part the prisoner actually took in the affair, but the jury would have no doubt that he was one of the men engaged in the assault and resistance, and rendered assistance in throwing the constable into the water.

After hearing the evidence the jury, without retiring, found the prisoner guilty, and his Lordship sentenced him to nine months' imprisonment with hard labour.

PERJURY.

Li Ping Kwan was charged with perjury himself before the Registrar of the Supreme Court in connection with probate matters.

The prisoner, who was undefended, pleaded not guilty, and the same jury sat as in the previous case.

Evidence was adduced similar to that published in the Police Court column of the *Daily Press*.

In summing up, his Lordship reminded the jury that at the last sessions a woman was charged with forging the will in question, and was committed to gaol.

The jury returned a verdict of guilty.

In passing sentence his Lordship said the prisoner's defence was very contradictory, and he had not improved his condition by the way he made it. If he had followed the example of Li Chu Shi at the last sessions he might now be better for it; his Lordship rather believed now that she was a cat-spaw, but she got off with a light sentence. The prisoner was a man, and insisted in his perjury. He would go to gaol for twelve months' with hard labour.

A SIMILAR CHARGE.

Li Mui Sin was arraigned for a like offence.

He pleaded guilty and was also sent to gaol with hard labour for twelve months.

The sessions were then adjourned until tomorrow, when his Honour, the Chief Justice, will resume his seat on the bench.

Thursday, 19th October.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR F. T. PIGGOTT (CHIEF JUSTICE).

MANSLAUGHTER.

Wong Hing, Lui Tam, Wong Hong and Lui Sin were arraigned on the indictment of unlawfully killing and slaying one Yau Kam, at Kowloon on the 21st September.

Sir H. S. Berkeley, Attorney-General, instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor, prosecuted, and Mr. H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. F. P. Hett (of Messrs. Brutton, Hett and Goldring) represented the prisoners.

The plea was not guilty, and the following jury was empanelled:—A. R. Kinross (foreman), H. E. Craddock, A. Moulder, J. F. Whyte, H. W. Merrill, T. Banks and A. E. Asger.

The Attorney-General said the charge the prisoners had to answer was that of unlawfully taking the life of one, Yau Kam, under such circumstances as amounted to manslaughter. The deceased was the friend of a Haklo coolie who was working on the reclamation at Kowloon Point, under one of the prisoners. On the 21st of last month he appears to have gone to the reclamation works to see his cousin his object in going to see him was to persuade him to leave his work and return to his village, as his mother required him. The coolie, named Chou Sun, left his work and went off with deceased for the afternoon. He returned to the reclamation about five o'clock, when he went to the fourth defendant and asked leave to return to his village to see his mother, and to draw whatever pay was due to him. The other three defendants were present, and they appeared to be accused more or less by the men working on the reclamation. They refused the request of the coolie to go away, saying that he would have to work his month out. He persisted in his request and they persisted in their refusal. The result was that a quarrel ensued, and it was alleged that the first and second prisoners struck and kicked the deceased at the instigation of the third and fourth prisoners, who told them to strike him. One of them used the expression—"If he is killed, that will be our look-out." The deceased appeared to have collapsed from the result of the attack upon him. He was carried by an Indian police sergeant to the Water Police station close by, and died almost immediately after his arrival. The post mortem examination revealed the fact that the man was suffering from an enlarged spleen, and subject to this unlawful violence, the result was that in his somewhat delicate state of health he died. The fact that he had an enlarged spleen was no excuse for those who unlawfully attacked him. If they had any grievance against him, their remedy was to go to the police station and there have the matter settled.

At the conclusion of the evidence Mr. Calthrop addressed the jury, and his Lordship, in summing up, placed the salient facts of the case before the jurors.

The jury retired, and on returning found the first three prisoners guilty, and the fourth not guilty.

His Lordship discharged the fourth prisoner, and sentenced the remaining three each to five years' penal servitude.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

14th October.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

The Tam-Ying-Kok, one of Chau Tung-Sang's properties recently seized, has become an office of the Canton-Hankow railway authorities. All the plans and instruments were removed into the building. This house is within a stone's throw of the Canton-Hankow railway wharf on the Canton side.

The stock of rails, sleepers, etc., taken over is said to be valued at 1,000,000 dollars. Taotai Wong Tsau-Ting has been appointed superintendent of the Fat-shan line, and all the daily receipts are to be handed to him to be placed with the Sin-hau-kuk.

CHAU TUNG-SANG'S CASE.

On the 11th inst. the military authorities of Sun-on, accompanied by the Viceroy's deputies seized the Koong-on and Fook-on pawnshops. The managers were brought to Canton to be questioned. They refuse, however, to give any information with regard to Chau Tung-Sang's other properties in that district. They are imprisoned in the prefect's gaol here.

OFFICIALS PUNISHED.

On the 4th of August I reported that Governor Chang-Yan-Tsun memorialized the throne with reference to Mak Ah-Sui's case. This unfortunate man was arrested, charged with armed robbery and sentenced to death by the provincial judge, Ching Yee-Lok. No evidence was taken. A confession in which Mak Ah-Sui denied carrying arms being the only document sent to the Viceroy he confirmed the sentence,

but Governor Chang reversed it on the plea that defendant having denied carrying weapons he could not be convicted on his own confession. Mak Ah-Sui was tortured and a subsequent enquiry proved that he had died through the injuries received, protesting to the last against the accusation and shouting that he was innocent.

A reply has now been received to Chang's memorial by Viceroy Shum in which the Board of Civil Office in Peking informs his Excellency that Magistrate Lau, who indicted the torture, has been cashiered. Provincial Judge Ching Yu-Lok has been degraded two degrees in rank and not permitted to redeem his degradation by paying money. Governor Chang forfeits one year's salary.

16th October, 1905.

CHAU TUNG-SANG'S CASE.

Viceroy Shum is reported to have received information that Chau Tung-Sang is at present in Hongkong. He has ordered Wen Taotai and deputy Wei to proceed to that port, and they left this morning by the s.s. *Powan*. They have instructions and the necessary authority to demand Chau's extradition. I am afraid the Viceroy's information is incorrect and that his two deputies are both on a wild goose chase. I learn that Chau is now beyond the clutches of the Chinese authorities. It is reported that he arrived in Hongkong on the 11th instant by the s.s. *Bayern*. Mr. Fung Wa-Chuen went to meet him on board, and Chau stayed in his house till the following morning when he left for Bangkok. Siam having no extradition treaty with China Viceroy Shum will be denied the pleasure of seeing Chau within the walls of a Canton prison.

A curious coincidence is that Mr. Fung Wa-Chuen, who arrived in Canton on Saturday, left this morning by the s.s. *Powan* with the deputies who are instructed to obtain Chau's extradition, and who both expect to find him in Fung Wa-Chuen's house. Mr. and Mrs. Ho-Tung were also passengers by the same steamer.

It is rumoured that two of the inmates of the Tai-Teng Yamen, where Chau Tung-Sang's concubines and maid-servants are detained, have died.

SQUEEZE.

The owners of the fantan gambling houses in Ping-cheon have denounced to Viceroy Shum the military official of that city who is levying a squeeze from them. The Canton Kwong-Hip has been ordered by His Excellency to proceed to that city to investigate into the affair.

A LONG QUARREL.

On passing through one of the streets in the walled city on Saturday morning I saw two Chinese women exchanging a few choice expressions from opposite windows. The crowd that had gathered beneath were being acquainted with all the black deeds committed by members of both families. When I returned four hours later the quarrel was still continuing and the onlookers learnt by that time who were the notorious members of both families for at least five generations back!

HOUSE v. STEAMER.

A strange accident occurred on the morning of the 13th inst. It appears that when the s.s. *Kwong Chow* was steaming up to her buoy a junk was almost collided with. In trying to avoid the junk the steamer ran into a house on the Honam which naturally collapsed. The owners are now asking for \$500 damages. The matter will, no doubt, be amicably settled.

LOCAL SPORT.

A football match was played here yesterday between members of the I. M. C. and the crew of H. M. S. *Sandpiper*. The game ended in a draw. This is the first match played on the new recreation ground.

DROWNING FATALITY.

Mr. Archibald Campbell, chief engineer of the s.s. *Chi Yuen* (China Merchants Steam Navigation Co.), was accidentally drowned this morning. It appears that he slept on deck last night in a long chair and was last seen at about 1.30 a.m. It is surmised that he got up a little later and must have overbalanced himself while walking along the rails of the steamer. His body has been recovered and an inquest held at the Consulate to-day. The jury returned a verdict of accidentally drowned.

17th October, 1905.

CHAU TUNG-SANG'S CASE: MORE SEIZURES.

On the 15th instant the Nam Hoi Magistrate and his assistant went with clerks and a considerable force of braves to the Western suburbs of the city to effect the seizure of eight shops and four houses, or altogether twelve properties, valued at about \$40,000. Lok Tze-Tong, a brother-in-law of Chau Tung-Sang, who was arrested at the Koon-Yum-Shan temple a few days ago was tried by the prefect on the 14th instant. He has signed a document in court promising to pay up a sum of \$20,000 within ten months. He has been taken back to the Poon-yu gaol where he will be detained until the above sum is paid up. Since the issue of the Viceroy's proclamation over twenty merchants and traders have sent in petitions to the prefect's yamen. Most of them mention that Chau had an interest of 500 Tls. in their respective businesses, moreover the writing of the petition is said to have been done by the same hand. The prefect is consequently very suspicious as to these petitions and has not replied to them at all. It is said that he has sent numerous detectives to make enquiries from these shops and has also instructed his clerks to prepare a considerable number of writs for attachment of properties and shops; to be ready for use. Two of Chau Tung-Sang's tenants, fearing that the houses they were occupying might be seized, sent in petitions to the prefect declaring that their landlord was Chau Tung-Sang. The prefect told them in his reply that they need not be afraid of anything, and that all they had to do was to send the rent money in future to the Sin-Hau-Kuk. Chau Tung-Sang's chief clerk, Fung Chung-Ng, was tried the other day by the Kwang Chow prefect and confessed that Chau held 337 shares in the Wong-Yuen-Tung paper factory here, the value of each share being 100 Tls. The Nam-Hoi magistrate and a deputy were immediately dispatched to the factory, to take a copy of the account books. They found Fung's statement to be correct and have ordered the manager to refund the value of the shares as they were confiscated by the Government. The matter was then reported to the Viceroy. The value of the properties seized up to date amounts to Tls. 1,20,000.

THE LATE MR. ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL.

The funeral of the late chief engineer of the s.s. *Chi Yuen*, whose sad death I reported yesterday, took place here at 4 p.m. yesterday. The Reverend Dr. Griene officiated, and many foreigners from the I.M.C. staff, and the British gunboat *Sandpiper's* crew accompanied the cortege to the Canton cemetery.

A CAPRICIOUS RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVE.

In connection with the transfer of the railway company's stocks, etc., to the Chinese authorities a very curious accident occurred which happily did not result in any loss of life. A deputy was despatched the other day to take an inventory of the company's properties at Fatshan. A special car was in readiness to take the deputy to that station. A few minutes before the deputy arrived the engineer of the locomotive alighted from his engine on to the platform when suddenly the locomotive started away. There were no passengers in the car. A regular panic ensued and telegrams were immediately despatched to the intermediate stations warning them of the coming danger. The locomotive stopped a little beyond Tam-Pin station, near Fatshan, after a record passage; having run all the way at top-speed. Fortunately no train was on the line, as otherwise a serious collision would have occurred. With the absence of foreign supervision, such accidents are liable to occur.

LOCAL EXAMINATIONS.

The Literary Chancellor, Yue Sik-Mui, arrived here yesterday. Although triennial examinations have been abolished by decree, he will hold special examinations in all the public schools here.

A GREAT BOYCOTT DEMONSTRATION.

The arrival in Canton of the remains of the late Fung A-Wai, who, it will be remembered, committed suicide within the precincts of the U. S. Consulate-General in Shanghai, and on whose person were found two letters addressed to the boycott committees of Shanghai and Canton respectively, was made the occasion of a great demonstration yesterday. A crowd of nearly 30,000 people gathered near the Wah

Lum Temple where his portrait was exhibited, and many hot speeches were delivered by excited orators inciting the public to persevere in the boycott and eulogising deceased's courage and self-denial in sacrificing his life for the cause of his countrymen. Nearly all the students of the different colleges attended the meeting. The police kept aloof and the demonstrators were not disturbed.

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S DEPARTURE.

Mr. A. H. Hyland, post-master of the Imperial Chinese Postal service in this port, and who has recently been promoted to the rank of a Deputy Commissioner, left Canton yesterday on furlough.

18th October.

HARBOUR POLICE FOR CANTON.

Viceroy Shum has decided to establish a river police force for Canton Harbour from the 1st of the 12th Moon. To begin with, the Head-office will be at Hoi-chu Fort (Dutch-folly); the Eastern station at Tai-sha-tan; the Western at Wong-sha and the Southern at Tai-chang-mai Fort (Macao Fort). Each station will be provided with a steam pinnace and six police-boats. Each boat will have accommodation for six policemen: total force 168 men. These boats will patrol the river day and night and it is expected that good order may result.

RECOMMENDED FOR PROMOTION.

Viceroy Shum has memorialized the Throne recommending for promotion and honours Wong-Ping-Yau, the new director of the Yue-Han Railway, and Chau-Mung-Tsang, the Prefect of Canton, the former to receive the red button of the first degree and the latter to obtain a taotaihip. These officials should show themselves particularly grateful as this is the first memorial of the kind that Viceroy Shum has sent to the throne since his arrival here.

ROBBER INFESTED DISTRICTS.

It has recently been reported to Viceroy Shum that the Tung-Kuan and Sun-on districts, both of which are bordering on the British new territory, are infested with robbers. His Excellency has deputed two expectant magistrates, Tsoi-Kan-Leang and Lai-Shun-Hi, with instructions to work in accord with the local civil and military officers and to devise means to clear the country of these desperadoes and restore peace in the troubled districts.

A POLICEMAN BEATEN.

While the Literary Chancellor, Yu Sik, who arrived yesterday, was crossing the town on his way to the Yamen, the official procession was met in the Kwai-Heng-Kai by a crowd of about 30 workmen from the Telephone Company who were carrying various materials. One of the Chancellor's attendants was knocked down and a big row ensued. A policeman soon arrived on the scene and tried to arrest the offender. His comrades came, however, to the rescue and in spite of the frequent calls for help made by the representative of the law, who was severely knocked about, he was taken by the workmen to the telephone office and detained. The Inspector of No. 3 Station appeared later and obtained the policeman's release. This is the land of topsyturvydom, indeed!

NEW WHARVES.

Passengers coming up to Canton by steamers other than those of the Canton-Macao S. S. Co. have hitherto been obliged to use a sampan for landing. A company floated some time ago memorialized Viceroy Shum for permission to erect steel piers along the bund of the new reclamation and have obtained permission to proceed with the work. Work was commenced yesterday and the new praya is piled up with girders, timber, etc. This will be bad news to the shareholders of the Canton-Macao S. S. Co., as competition will henceforth be keener than ever. The company might have kept the wharf monopoly in their hands by buying up the lots on the bund available for that purpose.

A MAGISTRATE ARRESTED.

Chai-Ting-Kam, ex Heungshan magistrate, was arrested on the 15th inst. by order of the provincial judge. A deficit of over 10,000 taels has been discovered in his accounts by the new magistrate for that district. Chai has been locked up in the Poon-Yu gaol pending his trial.

THE KWONG-NGA LANE ROBBERY CASE.

On the 20th ultimo I reported that a daring robbery had been committed at house No. 18 in the Kwong-Nga Lane, in broad daylight. The house was occupied by an expectant Taotai, Sun-Yui-Kwan, and jewellery and money to the value of ten thousand taels had been carried away, no arrests having been made so far in connection with this affair and none of the stolen property having been recovered. Sun petitioned the Viceroy praying that orders might be given to the responsible authorities to exert themselves a little more in the matter. His Excellency has replied that the police and braves of that district must be blind and deaf to allow such daring acts of robbery to be perpetrated under their very noses. He has consequently ordered the provincial judge and the chief officer of the military station to inform the Nam-Hoi that steps must be at once taken to have the robbers arrested and the stolen property recovered, otherwise he will be cashiered.

SHOP-LIFTERS.

A sewing shop was recently started by a woman in the Ching Shui Ho (in the new walled city). The shop employed only women and girls. Jackets and other garments were sold. Bad characters took advantage of the fact that there was not a single male servant on the premises and frequently snatched an article or two under the pretence of buying them and ran away. The proprietress reported the matter to the police who sent a couple of men to watch the shop. Several of the thieves have now been arrested.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

Macao, 10th October.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The Electric Company is making excellent progress with their work. The power house is almost completed; the poles in the streets are nearly all fixed up; and if things go on as smoothly as they are at present we shall soon have our old city lighted up by electricity. Better late than never! I hear that the streets will be lighted by incandescent lamps; arc lights will only be used in the Avenida and the Public Garden. Many private residences were to have installations, but, owing to the prohibitive cost, some people have already changed their minds.

THE PROJECTED CANTON-MACAO RAILWAY.

Some two years ago the people of Macao were full of hope that Macao would soon be connected with the interior of China by railway but this cherished hope has faded almost to the vanishing point. The Chinese syndicate have already subscribed their moiety of the capital, and are waiting for the Portuguese Government to bestir themselves. Unless our Government act promptly in the matter I am very much afraid that the Chinese will monopolise the whole line. In that case the terminus will be beyond the Portuguese territory, and I hear that it will be somewhere near Passaleão. An influential gentleman of this city took a good deal of trouble in the formation of the syndicate and the raising of the capital. What is now required is the approval of the terms of the agreement by the Government. The dilatoriness of the Government has become notorious.

THE HARBOUR WORK.

The long-pending project of the dredging of the harbour is still *in statu quo*; nothing definite is yet known as to when it will be commenced. Perhaps we shall hear something when the Director of Public Works, Senhor Abreu Nunes, returns to the Colony. I hear that his return is expected in November.

A BIG FIRE.

Yesterday, just after midnight, the Monte Fort fired two guns as a fire signal. A very big blaze was soon to be seen in Chinatown, and it turned out that a joss stick shop was burning. The shop was full of inflammable goods, and the flames spread rapidly to the two adjoining shops, dealing in preserved fruits. The glare could be seen even at Green Island and Lappa. I am told that the shops were all insured for \$8,000. A Chinese woman of 24 years was burned to death.

A TRAGIC DEATH.

On Wednesday last at noon a soldier of the Flora division, doing sentry duty at the Gunpowder Magazine near the Guia hill, was found dead; shot through the heart. It was probably a case of suicide. The deceased had some family trouble, and this act was perpetrated after the receipt of some letters from Home.

TRAVESSA DO PAIVA.

Something should be done by the Commandant of the Police with regard to the ricksha traffic along this street. About a fortnight ago two ladies were going down this street in their rickshas, when suddenly a policeman pounced on one of the coolies and began to strike him. This act somewhat frightened the ladies, and on one of them inquiring the cause of this sudden assault on her coolie, she was told that the police have orders not to allow any ricksha with one coolie to go down this street. This was, however, not the case, and a complaint having been lodged against the policeman in question, he was punished for being over zealous. I offer the suggestion that the Commandant should place an intelligent European policeman to do duty there to avoid a repetition of annoyances of this kind.

Macao, 18th October.

FIRE AT LAPPA.

Last Sunday was an unfortunate day for the people of Lappa. A big fire broke out in the morning which lasted for several hours, destroying a great portion of the village.

THE RICKETY GAOL.

About three months ago the prisoners in the public gaol had to be removed to the S. Francisco Barracks as the wall of the prison was destroyed by the earthquake. Immediately after the accident, workmen were seen busily engaged in shoring up the wall. Since then nothing further has been done by the Leal Senado, and people are asking: "When will the corporation do the necessary repairs?" Perhaps they are waiting until the remaining portion of the wall comes down and kills somebody. I hear that the prisoners will soon be removed from their present quarters to an old house in the Rua Central belonging to the Fernandes family. This house is not of the sort to retain any gang anxious to escape. Why not place the prisoners in the Barra Barracks, which are safer and more suitable for the purpose?

THE INCREASE OF TAXES.

This is the general topic of conversation in this city. Some two years ago a commission was appointed by the Government to study the best means of regulating the taxes of this city. This commission recommended, among other proposals, that the house tax should not be paid according to the rental, but according to the area occupied by each house. The Government seeing the advantage to be derived, approved of the proposal and is now going to adopt it. It is, indeed, too bad for the Government to increase the tax on the poor inhabitants of Macao. They are already contributing more than enough for the expenditures of the Colony, and the Government have enough funds for not only the improvement and requirements of Macao, but also to send periodical remittances to her sister colony, Timor. It is really hard for the inhabitants of this city to pay increased taxes, and see the money go out of the Colony. What is worse, I also hear that the Leal Senado is going to increase the lighting tax. What next, I wonder.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS ESTIMATES.

The Straits Settlements Estimates for 1906 show that the revenue for next year is estimated at \$9,479,064. This compares unfavourably with the probable revenue for this year, \$11,453,742, and with the actual revenue for last year \$10,746,517.

As may naturally be expected from the foregoing statement, estimated expenditure dwindles to \$9,693,220. The figures for this year are estimated to work out at \$11,360,240, whilst the actual expenditure for last year was \$10,848,993.

Under the heading "Licences," opinion is expected to put \$5,112,000 into the coffers of the Colony, and spirits \$1,200,000. Of these totals it is expected that Penang will contribute \$1,380,000 and \$540,000 respectively. The figures under "Licences" show a decrease as compared with this year and last year.

COMPANIES.

THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY
OF CANTON, LD.

The thirty-second ordinary annual meeting of shareholders was held at the Society's offices, Queen's Buildings, on 19th October. There were present Messrs. H. W. Sade (chairman), A. G. Wood, N. A. Siebs, A. Forbes, G. H. Medhurst (directors), W. J. Saunders (secretary), Hon. Mr. Gershom Stewart and Messrs. A. V. Apcar, Ho Fook, H. M. Nemazee, H. F. Carmichael, A. G. Morris, W. H. Gaskell, F. D. Goddard, Y. V. Vernon, C. H. Rogge, G. H. Potts, J. A. Jupp, C. W. Richards, W. Melchers, A. B. Bouse, C. M. G. Burnie, H. J. M. Carvalho and J. A. Carvalho.

The SECRETARY having read the notice convening the meeting, the CHAIRMAN said:—

GENTLEMEN—The report has been in your hands for some time and I will with your permission take it as read. I think I may fairly say that the figures presented in this report are satisfactory in every particular. The premium income is larger than it has ever been before and the interest receipts also show a considerable increase on previous figures. At the same time the charges show a decrease while the losses and claims are about the same. I will not take up your time in going through the figures item by item, as I have no doubt you have all studied them carefully, but I may mention that sterling exchange is taken at 1/10½ this year, as against 1/10 last year, and that the dollar equivalent of all sterling items would naturally owing to this cause show a decrease of about 2 per cent. I will now come to the division of profits of the year 1904. As you may have heard, a considerable portion of these profits has been derived from the war risk business. Some of you may think that it would be better to avoid this class of business as being of too speculative a nature; but it is not possible to do this altogether, as underwriters have to oblige regular customers by taking these risks sometimes. Also, when a war is going on, there is less ordinary business than at other times and consequently more competition for it, whereas the market is restricted for war risk business and rates of premium can be maintained at a high level. Although this business calls for special judgment and constant watchfulness on the part of those in charge of the underwriting, it can be conducted, and in our case we think has been conducted, on safe and remunerative lines (applause). However this may be, the Society's war risk business accounts for some £57,000 of the profits of the year 1904, which must be considered as a "windfall" and not as part of the Society's regular earnings. I mention this figure in sterling, not because the profit all accrued in sterling, but because it is convenient to take out all such statistics in sterling to avoid the exchange difficulty. It is not considered proper for an insurance company to pay a larger dividend one year than it can keep up in subsequent years nor to apply underwriting profits to dividend to more than a small extent. Absolute stability is the first point to be looked to and a fluctuating dividend does not convey the impression of stability. In recommending a dividend of \$40 per share, which is \$5 per share more than last year, we think we are increasing the dividend quite as much as is desirable. After paying \$40 per share as dividend, we have left enough to enable us to add \$150,000 to the silver reserve fund and £20,000 to the sterling reserve fund, and to carry forward \$722,588 to underwriting suspense account against outstanding liabilities on 1904 a/c. Among these liabilities is included a sum of some \$50,000 which your Board has decided to employ in the payment to the staff of a bonus of 20 per cent on their salaries. The results which have been put before you show ample testimony to the good work done by the whole staff, and I feel sure that all shareholders will approve of the Board's proposal to show their recognition of this work in the manner suggested (applause). The figures for the year 1905 as shown in the report are very satisfactory. There have been a number of losses since, but after making a full estimate for these the

balance in hand at the present date is about the same as it was last year on 1904 account. I would now like to mention the scheme for purchasing the majority of the shares of the China Traders' Insurance Company and issuing in exchange new shares in our Society. As you will have learned from our circular letter of 11th October an extraordinary general meeting will be held very soon, at which the whole scheme can be discussed, and all I wish to say now, while on the subject of accounts, is that we are confident that the proposed increase of capital will not in any way interfere with our being able to keep up the standard of our dividends in the future. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to know if any shareholder wishes to ask any questions.

No questions were asked and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

The Hon. Mr. STEWART in seconding the motion, said:—

Mr. CHAIRMAN,—Gentlemen,—I rise with much pleasure to second the adoption of the report and accounts, and in doing so feel relieved that no words of mine are necessary to recommend to you the acceptance of figures which speak so eloquently for themselves. I am glad to notice the word of warning in the Chairman's speech as to our counting as an annual certainty on the exceptional good fortune which it has been the lot of this company to have had for the last few years. Those who are interested in Marine Insurance need no reminder as to how quickly a very good looking account might at the last moment be torn to pieces by a devastating typhoon or by a big gale in the channel, but shareholders who merely collect their dividends are apt sometimes to forget the risks which are run to obtain those dividends, and I think it is well to remind them that there is a debit as well as a credit side to an underwriting account. I feel sure that all shareholders will approve of the careful manner in which our large earnings have been proportioned. The building up of a strong reserve is a policy which is sound and reasonable. With regard to the pending amalgamation of our company with the China Traders Company, as that matter is still *sub judice* I will not say more than that I—and I believe the whole of us here—feel such confidence in those who administer our interests that we are prepared to support them in any policy, which, after due consideration they deem advisable for the furtherance of our general business (hear, hear). The substantial rise of about 50 per cent. in the value of China Traders stock seems to me to show that a close association with the Union Insurance Society is not without attraction to a good many shareholders in the sister company. I listened with pleasure to the chairman's announcement of a bonus to the staff. They have for many years, in times of peace, reaped for us a most satisfactory harvest. It is still more satisfactory for us to know that they have reaped a more satisfactory one in the troublous times of war which we have just passed through. It is not usual that people can adapt themselves quickly to new environment, but I think the figures clearly show that our staff have been able to meet the new problems which they have had to face with promptitude, ability and success. I am very glad to notice that the Board has shown its appreciation of this valuable quality in the way they have done. I feel certain that the bonus you have asked for will be voted by the whole of the shareholders with extreme cordiality (hear, hear). With those few remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report and accounts (applause).

The motion was carried.

The SECRETARY on behalf of the staff returned thanks for the hearty vote of thanks accorded them:

Mr. VERNON proposed the re-election of Messrs. N. A. Siebs and A. G. Wood as directors.

Mr. MORRIS seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

It was proposed by Mr. RICHARDS, seconded by Mr. JUPP and agreed, that Messrs. W. H. Potts and A. R. Lowe be re-appointed auditors.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. Thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be sent out to-morrow.

NORTH CHINA INSURANCE
CO., LTD.

The report for presentation to the second ordinary general meeting of shareholders, to be held at the offices of the company at Shanghai on Tuesday next reads as follows:—

The directors beg to submit, for the information of shareholders, the annexed duly audited statement of the company's accounts to the 30th June, 1905.

1904.—The balance at credit of this account is Tls. 344,232.79, and after deducting an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., aggregating Tls. 29,032.26, paid on the 1st May last, there remains a sum of Tls. 315,200.53, which the directors recommend should be appropriated in the following manner:—

A final dividend of 7½ per cent. on the paid-up capital.

A bonus of 15 per cent. upon contributory premiums.

Tls. 100,000, to the credit of a silver reserve fund.

Tls. 50,000 to the credit of an "exchange and investment fluctuation account."

And the balance to be transferred to underwriting reserve account, closing the account for 1904.

1905.—The Balance at credit of working account to the 30th June, amounts to Tls. 302,533.37.

Reserve Fund.—Acting under the powers conferred on them by the articles of association, the directors decided to convert the Tls. 800,000, referred to in the last report, into a permanent sterling reserve fund, and it now appears in the balance sheet as £100,000.

Directors.—In accordance with the provisions of the articles of association the directors all retire, but being eligible, offer themselves—with the exception of Mr. Matthews, who is leaving for home—for re-election. Notices in writing of candidature for the seat vacated by Mr. Matthews will be received at the head office, up to 16th October.

Auditors.—The accounts have been audited by Messrs. Wingrove and Hayter, and they again tender their services to the Shareholders.

By order of the court of directors

WM. GEO. BAYNE,
Secretary.

Shanghai, 9th October 1905.

TANJONG PAGAR REPORT.

The Tanjong Pagar Dock Company issued its last directors' report, over the signature of the Hon. W. P. Waddell, chairman, on the 5th.

In view of the coming arbitration, and the state of the market as regards the company's shares, its every item is of interest to readers. It runs as follows:—

Your directors beg to submit a statement of accounts, duly audited, for the half-year ending 30th June, 1905.

As notified to members on the 25th May last the Government gave notice to the company that it was their intention to take over the undertaking of the company from the 30th of June, 1905, and the undertaking of the company became vested in the Government on that date and has since been managed by the Tanjong Pagar Dock Board.

The net amount of profit, which would, under ordinary circumstances be available for distribution, including the sum of \$206,645.52 brought forward from last account, is \$391,675.02.

The directors recommend that the Government should be requested to pay over this sum to the company in accordance with the provisions of section 6 of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance 1905, and that out of this sum, when received, a dividend at the rate of \$24 per share should be paid for the half-year on the subscribed capital of the company.

The company will, under the provisions of section 22 of the Tanjong Pagar Dock Ordinance 1905, be entitled to be paid from the 30th of June, 1905, until the amount awarded by the Court of Arbitration to the company shall be paid or satisfied, interest at the rate of 12 per cent. per annum on the issued ordinary share capital of the company.

The Court of Arbitration has been constituted as follows:—*Umpire*: Sir Michael Edward Hicks-Beach, M.P., P.C. *Arbitrators*: Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., K.C. James Charles Inglis, Esq.—And is expected to commence its sittings during the month of October.

During the half-year the following changes on the Board have taken place, Mr. A. von Rossing, retired, and Mr. A. G. Faber was elected a director in his place; Mr. J. R. Nicholson, Mr. P. Haffter and Mr. D. K. Somerville resigned, and their seats have not been filled.

W. P. WADDELL.

BALANCE SHEET.

30th June, 1905.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.

CAPITAL.

Total amount received from shareholders \$3,700,000.00
Number of shares issued\$37,000
Number of shares unissued..... 8,000

Total number of shares.....\$45,000

Amount received per share \$100

LIABILITIES.

Debentures series "A" due
10th October, 1905\$ 140,500
Debentures series "B" due
10th October, 1906 175,000
Debentures series "C" due
10th April, 1908 250,000
Debentures series "D" due
30th June, 19091,050,000

1615,550.00

General reserve fund being surplus profits invested in the company's business 2,100,000.00

Loans at call and for short terms 154,235.48

Interest on debentures and loans, due 30th June, 1905 21,629.52

Directors' fees 11,250.00

Contributory payments (Clause 107) 31,47.02

Sundry creditors 25,397.70

Balance as per profit and loss account 891,675.02

\$8,754,034.74

PROPERTY AND ASSETS.

PROPERTY.

Freehold and leasehold land.....\$2,104,555.39

Docks, wharves, godowns, coal sheds, buildings, machine shops, foundries, electric house and plant, &c. 3,319,467.16

Land at Sandy Point 26,817.26

MOVABLE PROPERTY.

Working plant, boiler and masting shears, saw mills, &c. 210,808.36

Railway and railway plant 176,782.67

Steam tugs *Sunda*, *Mercury*, *Bangkok*, and tug No. 12 69,174.54

Steam launches, &c. 90,039.00

Steam dredger..... 120,053.20

Lighters 11,280.61

Steel lighters for lightering..... 77,919.17

Steel barges..... 52,533.67

Steel hopper barges 105,801.99

Boats and launches in stock and in course of construction 23,444.01

Engines and boilers in course of construction 41,211.27

Stock-in-trade..... 886,880.00

Goods to arrive in transit..... 76,029.24

Premium of fire insurance belonging to next half-year 19,152.11

Expropriation expenses, expenditure to date 29,593.11

Sundry debtors 789,808.01

Deposit paid account of Telok Blangah land purchase 25,000.00

Singapore Slipway and Engineering Company, Limited, 924 shares 42,900.00

Cash in hands of London agency 22,866.42

Cash in hands of London agency account of expropriation expenses..... 227,236.15

Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Singapore 246,685.90

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Singapore 12,007.50

\$8,754,037.44

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

For the half-year ending 30th June, 1905.

Dr.

To dividend of \$20 per share for the half-year ended 31st December, 1904\$ 740,000.00

To balance carried forward 206,645.52

\$946,645.52

To general charges, stationery, printing, advertising and administration expenses 88,641.27

To quite rents and assessment 24,593.95

To interest on debentures, loans, &c. 43,949.64

To fire insurance on buildings stocks, &c. 18,631.40

To directors' fees 11,250.00

To London committee's fees 4,737.34

To contributory payment (Clause 107) ... 29,882.58

To bad debts 4,722.81

To balance 891,675.02

\$1,118,134.01

Cr.
By balance at credit at 31st December, 1904\$ 846,645.52

\$ 846,645.52

By balance brought down 206,645.52

By earnings for half-year..... 836,253.42

By charges accrued at 30th June and sundry receipts 42,514.47

By rents 32,720.60

\$1,118,134.01

THE P. AND O. COMPANY'S NEW FLEET.

As competition in the shipping trade grows keener shipping companies find it necessary to have larger and more up-to-date vessels to meet the growing demand. In this respect the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company do not intend being left behind, and their old boats are gradually being withdrawn from this run and replaced by larger and better craft. The last of the old fleet visiting this port will be the s.s. *Chusan*, which calls at Hongkong on the 30th December. Then, with the New Year, an entirely new fleet of P. and O. steamers will plough eastern waters. The first of the new arrivals was the s.s. *Arcadia*, of 6,603 tons register, which made fast alongside the Kowloon wharves yesterday morning. For some years this vessel has been on the Australian run, but after a complete refitting, it has been decided that her ports of call shall in future be eastern. The *Oceana*, a sister ship, is also to be put on this run, and in all probability, also the *Victoria* and *Britannia* at a later date. Besides the *Arcadia* and *Oceana*, four newly built ships the *Delhi*, *Delta*, *Dongola*, and *Devalho*, all 8,000 tonners, will be added to the P. and O. Company's eastern fleet, the first of which is expected to arrive here sometime in December.

THE LOSS OF THE "CANTABRIA."

OVER SIXTY PEOPLE DROWNED INCLUDING SIX AMERICANS.

The Philippine coasting steamer *Cantabria* which was lost in the recent typhoon with all on board (over sixty people including six Americans) was formerly owned by Messrs. Douglas, Lapraik and Company, and known as the *Formosa*. The *Cablencus* mentions that she was sold about three years ago to Mr. Francisco Reyes for the sum of \$50,000 and later purchased by her present owners, Messrs. Urrutia and Company, for the sum of P140,000. She was insured for the sum of P100,000 with the Union Insurance Company, the Northern Marine Insurance Company, the China Traders' and the Canton Insurance Company. Her cargo, which was valued at P80,000, was also insured, so that the company does not anticipate very great loss.

She was a vessel of 221 feet in length, 32 feet beam, had a draft of 12.5 feet and was built by W. Richardson and Company of Newcastle in 1885, and has triple expansion engines and has a gross tonnage of 1097 tons. She was employed as an inter-island transport by the Quartermasters Department. She was commanded by a Spaniard, Captain Bernardino Madariaga, and her officers and crew all told numbered 51. She also had on board 18 passengers and every soul is reported lost. The names of the American passengers are given as Mr. and Mrs. August O. Sorensen, Murray Hendry, H. G. Lane, J. C. Smith, John W. Griffin.

Mr. Hendry, was a consulting engineer of the firm of Castle Brothers, Wolf and Sons. He was formerly the chief engineer of the gunboat *Napindan* during the days of insurrection and later went to China and returned again to Manila about three years ago. Since that time he had been in the employ of the firm. He is described as one of the best-known and most popular engineers in the Philippines and the China coast. He was on his way to Legaspi, Albay, to make a public exhibition of the new hemp-stripping machines which the firm has recently acquired patents for.

DES VOEUX ROAD FIRE INQUIRY.

The inquiry concerning the recent fire in the Cheong Lee furniture store in Des Voeux Road was resumed on the 6th October before Mr. F. A. Hazeland, Mr. Looker again appearing on behalf of the Insurance Companies and Mr. R. A. Harding on behalf of the master of the business.

Cheng Shan Ping, accountant, examined by Mr. Harding, stated that he examined the books of the firm in the interests of the Insurance Company on 11th September and furnished his report on the 16th ult.

You have stated in your evidence that the books did not show any dates?—In the stock book.

Did you still state there were no dates in the arrival book?—There are dates.

Did you say there were no dates in the delivery book?—There were.

In what book are there no dates?—The stock book.

The stock book for last Chinese Year?—I don't know.

Will you refer to it?—It is dated this year.

In arriving at your estimate of the goods on the premises you referred to the stock book?—Yes.

And then did you add to the stock book the purchases that had been made?—I arrived at my figures according to the stock book.

In arriving at your estimate did you consider the goods purchased this year?—The stock book showed goods to the value of \$48,000 and the arrival book \$21,000 odd.

And the sale book?—\$21,300 odd.

They would balance?—Yes.

In that sale book you have not deducted a profit?—No.

Those sale prices include not only the sale price but the profit to the firm?—Yes.

You know the profit in this business is sometimes 40 per cent?—No.

What do you think it is?—I don't know.

If you take 33 per cent. as the profit off those prices you have given, there would be say \$7,000, additional worth of goods on the premises?—Yes.

On that calculation there would be only \$15,000 worth of goods sold instead of \$21,000, —Yes.

If you added that \$7,000 on to your estimate it would make the value of the goods \$55,000?—Yes.

The books do not give an exact description of each article?—No.

By the Bench—He accepted the Cheong Lee's estimate for blackwood furniture.

In making your inquiries at other firms you simply mentioned the description in the Cheong Lee's stock book?—Yes.

Sanitary Inspector Wooley said he visited 29 and 31 Des Voeux Road on 1st September. He visited the shop before that on August 26th. He went on the ground floors, first and second floors of both houses. He visited the premises in connection with the plague. He only went to the second floor of No. 31. The reason why he did not go to 29 was that it seemed in different occupation. He made a thorough inspection of the premises. On the two first floors there was not a large amount of furniture. There was plenty of space to put a lot more furniture. The actual furniture consisted of Vienna chairs, about 12 dozen. He did not see any blackwood there. He did not see anything particular in the way of finished work there. Apart from finished work, he saw a lot of packing stuff, stuff used for packing chairs and sofas. The place had a rough and ready appearance.

Can you form any idea of the value of the goods on both floors?—There might have been \$1,000 worth.

Evidence has been given that there were \$20,000 worth? Do you think that was possible?—I should say it was impossible.

You went to the second floor of 31?—Yes.

What was it used as?—Partly as a furniture room and partly as a sleeping place.

Sanitary Inspector Reidie gave corroborative evidence.

Cross-examined by Mr. Harding—He did not go there to look at the furniture, but to see that the lime washing regulations had been carried out. There were a lot of goods on the ground

floor and he noticed packing boxes on the second floor. He did not go to examine furniture, and could not see all the articles on the ground floor.

By Mr. Looker—The boxes to which I refer were those in which clothing would be kept.

Mr. George Lammert, auctioneer, appraiser, and surveyor, said he was well acquainted with the value of furniture in the colony. He had visited the ground floors of Nos. 29 and 31 Des Vœux Road on the 4th, 5th and 6th inst., and had inspected the condition of the goods on the ground floor. He had ascertained what was there when the fire took place and none had been consumed. He had made a careful inspection of those goods. His valuation of the goods in the front shops of the two houses was \$4,180. That was their value if they were perfectly sound. In making that value he allowed very high shop price, about 30 per cent above what they would cost. Some of them were covered with the debris from the first and second floors. There were very little goods left on the other two floors, but there were remnants of furniture. He examined the debris on the ground floor, but found no traces of electro plate. The debris was all building material. He would say that the first and second floors could not store \$50,000 worth of furniture. He examined the walls of the first and second floors but could find no traces of shelves.

By Mr. Harding—When he made his estimate he knew that goods were made on the premises. He made his valuation on the selling price—the price charged to any unsuspecting man who came into the shop not knowing anything about high prices.

The inquiry was adjourned.

The inquiry into the circumstances connected with the fire which occurred at the Cheong Lee furniture shop, 29 and 31 Des Vœux Road, on the 9th ultimo, was continued before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court on October 9th.

Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the Insurance Companies interested, and Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the owner of the premises.

Mr. T. F. Hough, of Messrs. Hughes and Hough, auctioneers, called by Mr. Harding, said that on the 7th and 8th October he inspected Nos. 29 and 31 Des Vœux Road. The roofs of both buildings had gone; part of the first floor on the south side of No. 29 was standing. In No. 31 the back part of the first floor was standing, and a small area, about ten or twelve feet from the road was also standing. On the walls of the rooms left standing the plaster had been stripped off, he thought by the heat from the fire; nearly all the bricks were bare on the first and second floors. On examining the debris he found on the ground floor a certain amount of furniture there were many pieces, some charred and some broken. In the show window facing the road he saw a large quantity of plated ware, but could not say whether it was silver or electro-plated. Witness saw a damaged case at the back of No. 31 where stock might have been kept. He could not approximately value the stock on the ground floor unless it was sorted out and each article taken. He did not think it possible to state the value of the stock on that floor before the fire. He concluded that there had been silverware stored on the second floor, as he saw several articles of that nature amongst the debris on the first floor. Two rooms at the back of the premises were not burnt out; one was on the first and one on the second floor. In both rooms a quantity of stock was stored. There was room in the two houses to have stored \$50,000 worth of the ordinary merchandise of this kind of shop. From his examination he could not form any opinion as to whether the shop was properly stocked at the time of the fire, as the upper floors were so completely gutted. From the debris and remnants he saw he would conclude that an average stock had been carried.

Cross-examined—The impression left on his mind was that plaster had been on the walls. The west wall of the west house was scorched to some extent. Practically the whole of the second floor was burned. There were a considerable number of charred pieces of furniture on the ground floor. Witness

could give no idea as to what the value of the stock on the ground and first floors would be if it consisted chiefly of furniture, wardrobes, writing and dressing tables, sideboards and washstands.

The case was remanded.

At the Magistracy on the 11th October Mr. F. A. Hazeland continued the inquiry into the circumstances connected with the fire which occurred at the Cheong Lee Furniture Shop, 29 and 31 Des Vœux Road, on the 9th ultimo.

As before, Mr. H. W. Looker (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon) represented the Insurance Companies interested, and Mr. R. A. Harding appeared for the owner of the premises.

Mr. Harding called as a witness, San Man Sam. He said he was lessee of Nos. 29 and 31 Des Vœux Road. At the date of the fire all the rent had been paid up to September. He also collected the rents of his adjoining houses. He visited the Cheong Lee on the afternoon before the fire, and went to the first floor where he saw the master of the shop. The first floor was stocked with goods, which were stacked nearly up to the ceiling. Projecting from the walls there were shelves on which goods were stacked. Witness did not visit the second floor on the same date, but he went there about a fortnight previously. On that occasion there was a good deal of stock stacked on the floor, and as on the first floor, shelves carrying goods projected from the wall. There was a room on the second floor containing some boxes in which were silk, vases and silverware. When he visited the premises a fortnight before the fire they were fully stocked. He saw the ground floor the day before the fire and would say that it, and the first floor, was then fully stocked.

Cross-examined.—Under the lease the rent of the Cheong Lee shop should be paid on the first day of each month. Witness usually collected himself, and fourteen days before the fire went to collect the rent for September.

Mr. Looker—Fourteen days before the fire would be the 27th August, and according to your own showing, the rent was not then due.

Witness—I went there to collect it.

His Worship—Oh, no. You don't go to collect rent before it is due. Don't talk nonsense.

Mr. Looker—Did you get the rent?

Witness—No.

Mr. Looker—Was it due?

Witness—Yes.

Mr. Looker—Why didn't he pay it then?

Witness—I don't know. That's his business. He paid me two or three days afterwards.

Continuing witness said he did not get the money because the master said he had not enough. He did not go into No. 29 when he visited the premises. When he got to the first floor of No. 31 the master was in the room with wire netting round it. He went into the room and was there about a quarter of an hour. He walked all round the floor before he went into the room. He took notice of the stock because he was a rent collector, and it was such a man's business to notice stock. The master of the shop was not a friend of his, only an acquaintance. When he called to see him fourteen days before the fire it was about a debt owing to a school at Yaumati by the master's younger brother. He went to the first floor of both houses, and walked round the four walls of each floor. As soon as he got upstairs he could see the master. The rent of the shop was not always paid punctually—sometimes it is two weeks late.

John M. Rochasworn, said he was an insurance clerk in Messrs. Meyerink and Co. The goods in these premises were insured in two companies—amongst others—for which Messrs. Meyerink and Co. were agents. Witness visited the shop about six weeks before the fire when he saw Lau Luk Lin on the premises. He asked him whether he had any share in the business, and Lau replied that he had. Previous to the fire there were several other fokis of the shop whom he knew by sight and had spoken to. After the fire witness went to Canton where he saw a furniture shop similar to the Cheong Lee. It was called the Wing Wo Cheung, the address being 61 Sap Pat Po. The furniture was European, similar to that he inspected in the Cheong Lee shop. He saw in the Wing Wo Cheung two men whom he knew as fokis of the Cheong Lee Shop. These men

told him the shop was opened at the beginning of August. They told him they came from the Cheong Lee, and appeared confused at meeting him.

Mr. Harding objected to the statements of other persons than the witness being put in as evidence. Such statements could easily be manufactured.

Mr. Looker submitted it was proper evidence to go before a jury, who could come to the conclusion whether it was manufactured out of spite or whether it was bona fide. It was secondary evidence of facts, and some interesting facts would be revealed.

His Worship—This is quite a novel point, and if you press it I should like to reserve my decision as to whether the evidence is admissible.

Mr. Looker—Perhaps, your Worship will take it down and reserve your decision till afterwards.

Mr. Harding—I would suggest your Worship would get better evidence by sending a man to France to get it manufactured to suit the case.

His Worship—You have told me that about six times, Mr. Harding; you need not tell me again. The circumstances connected with the point are peculiar, and the man is out of the jurisdiction of the court, so cannot be subpoenaed, I suppose it is impossible to get hold of him.

Mr. Looker—We only know that two men known as fokis of the Cheong Lee shop, were found in the Canton furniture shop, and presume they are part of the retinue of the Cheong Lee. That being so they could not for a moment suppose it was possible to induce them to come to Hongkong.

His Worship decided not to admit the evidence.

The witness continuing said the premises of the shop were quite new; he asked to be shown their godowns and was refused.

To Mr. Harding—He went to the Cheong Lee Shop three times after taking out their insurance. He went as a customer, and on his last visit bought goods there. The master was not present, but Lau Mak Lin said he had a share in the shop. The furniture in the Cheong Lee Shop was mostly European.

The inquiry, was further adjourned.

Mr. F. A. Hazeland, who had conducted the inquiry into the circumstances attending the recent fire in the Cheong Lee furniture store in Des Vœux Road, on Oct. 17th gave his judgment. He said that the question which he had to try was under section 5. He was to express an opinion whether the investigation did or did not disclose any offence, and the only suggestion in which there could have been any evidence was the suggestion that the place had been understocked. On that point the evidence was so conflicting that he was not prepared, sitting there as a jurymen, to say that the place was understocked. That being so, he found that the investigation did not disclose any offence and therefore he would order the inquiry to be closed and the premises to be released if they were not already released.

Inspector Warnock stated that they had been released.

Mr. Harding (for the owner of the Cheong Lee)—And the books to be returned.

Mr. Rocha, on behalf of the Insurance Companies, objected.

Mr. Harding replied that there was no power to detain them.

His Worship said the books were not in the custody of the police.

This concluded the proceedings.

On October 22nd as a Chinaman was passing No. 23 Bonham Strand, he heard a noise from which he concluded that gambling was going on within. Being short of cash, he bethought himself of ways and means whereby he might take possession of the bank. Rushing into the house he bawled out that the police were coming. There was immediately a scattering, and the unknown one, seizing the money on the table, disappeared, and has not been seen since. One Chinaman, anxious to escape from what he thought was a police raid, rushed up to the second floor of the house, and while hurrying along outside the verandah railing, missed his footing and fell to the ground. He was at once removed to hospital, where he died shortly after admission.

CHINA ASSOCIATION.

HONGKONG BRANCH.

The report of the committee of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was issued on October 19 from the *Daily Press* office. It says:—

Our last report was written in February, 1904, and was approved by members at the general meeting on 17th March of last year.

The present report covers the intervening eighteen months and as during the whole of that time the Russo-Japanese War has been in progress the period has been one of exceptional interest.

In the appendix will be found correspondence upon various questions which have occupied the attention of your committee, and which we trust will meet with approval.

KOWLOON-CANTON RAILWAY.

As this is by far the most important subject to this Colony our efforts have largely centred round it and we are glad to say that there are signs that these have not been altogether without effect.

In April, 1904, Mr. G. Stewart went to Peking, and was requested by the committee to interview the British Minister and to give them any information he might be able to obtain in regard to railway construction in China.

The result was embodied in a letter to the chairman dated 12th May, 1904, and is published in appendix A together with particulars of an important interview which your committee had with the officer administering the Government, on Wednesday, 18th May, 1904.

We take this opportunity of recording the high appreciation we feel for the consistent sympathy and support accorded to our efforts by Mr. May during his term of office as Acting Governor.

On the arrival of H. E. Sir Matthew Nathan, in July of last year, we were naturally anxious to ascertain if the views of our new Governor, on this subject, coincided with ours. We are glad to say that His Excellency at once declared himself an enthusiastic supporter of the railway and that since the first day of his arrival he has unceasingly laboured to help forward the enterprise.

After consideration of the project from all points of view, he is of opinion that it will be better for the Colony itself to construct that portion of the line lying within its own borders, rather than guarantee interest on the whole line. Your committee, although at one time favouring the idea of a colonial guarantee for the whole line, willingly fell in with the Governor's view, which avoids any possible difficulties that might have arisen from the Government of one country guaranteeing interest on a line running through the territory of another.

Thanks to the energy of His Excellency, engineers from home are already at work surveying on our section of the line and we may therefore hope before long to have an estimate of the probable cost to us of this all-important undertaking.

CHINA LEAGUE.

The movement to amalgamate our Association with this body has again been put forward, and, after full consideration by our London Committee, has been negatived by a small majority.

This matter, as you are aware, was considered at an extraordinary general meeting held after our last general meeting on March 17th, 1904, when a similar decision was arrived at. Your committee have seen no reason to alter the opinion they then held upon this subject, and the appendix B shows their views as given in their letter of 18th August last, which it is hoped correctly expresses the opinion of the general body of members.

UNIFORM COINAGE OF CHINA.

We have always supported the arrangements outlined in the Mackay Treaty upon this point and, although the desired end seems still a long way off, owing to the laxity of the Chinese Government in carrying out the stipulations agreed to in that Treaty, we have given whatever influence we may possess towards its attainment.

WEST RIVER STEAMERS.

We have endeavoured to secure increased facilities for these steamers, and, since 1st May last, they have been permitted to clear at their option for either Samshui or Kongmoon, thus

relieving steamers proceeding to Wuchow from the long detour formerly necessitated by going to Kongmoon.

BARRIERS IN THE CANTON RIVER.

Captain Tyler's scheme for meeting this question provides what appears to be substantially necessary, as far as can be judged at the present moment; but if hereafter it is found that the partial removal of the obstruction is not effective, it will be within our province to press for a fuller completion of the work of removal.

TRADE MARKS REGISTRATION.

The advisability of having a branch office for this work at Canton has been put forward, and we hope will be secured, as it would be a convenience to importers trading here and in South China.

TRANSIT PASSES.

This has again occupied our attention. Appendix E shows the line we have taken upon it, and we are glad to say that this system is now working better than formerly.

RAILWAY ENTERPRISE IN CHINA.

Our views on this subject were communicated to the London Branch in a letter dated 5th July, wherein we urged the advisability of cooperation with the Japanese.

THE RIGHTS OF NEUTRAL SHIPPING DURING WAR.

We have deemed it advisable to beg our London Committee to press this matter on the Foreign Office in the hope that some settlement of claims within a reasonable period may be effected. The reference in our letter of 5th July was written with the object of drawing the attention of the Home Authorities to the bad effect to our carrying trade which might result if Chinese shippers get the impression that their interests under the British flag are neglected because these waters happen to be a long way from England. In more than one instance, when steamers have been sunk, notably the *Hipsang* and the *St. Kilda*, we have contended that all accepted rules guiding naval operations have been violated.

THE AMERICAN BOYCOTT.

The American Boycott has occupied public attention of late to a great extent and the committee are fully alive to the serious effect which a continuance, and possibly an extension of this course of conduct may have on all foreign trade.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

The termination of the Russo-Japanese War, which from the point of view of humanity all must welcome, will, we hope, be of permanent character; and although, at the moment, the terms of peace may not appear altogether as complete as all well-wishers of Japan had hoped for, we trust that upon fuller consideration our ally will feel more contentment, and will be able to reap therefrom benefits sufficient to compensate her for the sacrifices she has so nobly made and for the brilliant successes which have fallen to her arms in this Titanic conflict.

It will be a serious hindrance to the full development of trade in this part of the world if the conclusion of peace is looked upon, by either party, as a temporary measure only.

TREATY RIGHTS IN MANCHURIA.

Together with two letters of our own on this subject we print in the appendix a memorandum by Mr. Kopsch on the subject of commercial affairs in Manchuria. It was written before the war and has been in our possession for some time. But in view of the many important commercial questions which will inevitably arise out of the new conditions created by the war, we venture to think that its contents may prove of interest to many members.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

Mr. Wilcox resigned the chairmanship of this branch of the Association on his departure from the Colony in January of this year. As will be seen from the correspondence on the subject the Hon. Mr. G. Stewart was appointed to succeed him.

We desire to record our indebtedness to Mr. Wilcox for the excellent work which he accomplished during his term of office, and we are glad to know that his services have received appropriate acknowledgment at home by his appointment to a seat on the London Committee.

THE COMMITTEE.

During the period under review there have been many changes in the personnel of the

committee. It now consists of the following gentlemen:—Hon. Mr. G. Stewart, chairman; Mr. G. W. F. Playfair (absent); Mr. A. G. Wood, Mr. H. W. Robertson, Mr. E. Osborne, Mr. G. H. Medhurst, Mr. F. Salinger, and Mr. M. Stewart, hon. secretary.

G. STEWART,
Chairman.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CLOCK TOWER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR—In the present discussion on the subject of the removal of the Clock Tower one or two points seem to have escaped general notice.

The first of these is that the Clock Tower was not erected out of the public funds of the Colony but by moneys privately subscribed.

In the early Sixties a feeling seems to have prevailed that the Colony should possess some buildings of a public and permanent character. This resulted in the erection of the Clock Tower, the City Hall, and the fountain opposite it.

The funds for the erection of the Hall and the Tower were provided by private subscription. The Clock and the fountain were the gifts of individual donors.

Funds for the erection of the Clock Tower having been thus provided, the Government agreed to bear the cost of maintaining it. The City Hall is still maintained at private expense.

The question naturally arises whether, under these circumstances, the Government can remove or destroy a building erected through the generosity of private individuals and handed over by them to the Government in trust for the public as a permanent memorial.

Did the people whose names appeared on the subscription list give their contributions on the understanding that the building they were paying for might be pulled down by the Government at any time?

It can scarcely be contended that they did.

It is apparent that they had in contemplation, when paying their subscriptions, an erection of a permanent nature and not one which would be liable to removal or destruction according to the policy of the Government of the day.

Should the Government suddenly decide to pull down the City Hall and the fountain and not to re-erect them, an immediate outcry would generally be made. Yet its rights—or no rights—in respect of these buildings are on precisely a similar footing as in the case of the Clock Tower.

The real point at issue seems to hinge on the question of obstruction and consequently on the interests of the public. Anyone who takes the trouble to devote a quarter-of-an-hour to personal observation will easily be convinced there is no obstruction at all.

It is, too, I think overlooked that, if any obstruction ever existed, the migration of all the principal shops to Des Voeux Road, and the pending removal of the Post Office to the same locality will make a considerable difference in the volume of traffic hitherto existing in the neighbourhood of the Tower.

One other point, and possibly one more overlooked than any other. If the Clock Tower is pulled down it is not the intention to re-erect it. Any removal will be complete in the sense that it will be never seen again.—I am, sir, yours etc.,

AN OLD FRIEND OF THE TOWER
Hongkong, 15th October.

THE PUBLIC LIGHTING.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Dear Sir,—I would like to bring to the notice of the authorities the need of having the street lamps lighted earlier than is at present done, to my knowledge certain streets in the Colony to wit, Caine Road and its vicinity, are in total darkness before the gas is turned on. This renders the public thoroughfare dangerous for traffic. I trust the "powers that be" will see their way to remedy this grievance and so confer a boon on the community.—Yours truly,

ELGINITE.

Hongkong 17th October 1905.

BISHOP POZZONI.

RECEPTION AT THE CATHOLIC UNION.

The committee and the members of the Catholic Union held a reception in their club rooms at Glenealy on October 14th in honour and to welcome his Lordship Bishop Pozzoni. The hall of the club was crowded with many friends of the institution including their Lordship, Bishop Menacetti and Bishop Clemente, the Reverend Fathers de Maria, Gabardi, Spada, Augustin, Noval, Brun and several other priests, Senhor Conselheiro Romano and a good many ladies and gentlemen and the Christian Brothers. The club building was very nicely illuminated by Japanese lanterns and fairy lamps. A triumphal arch, also beautifully lit, with the word "Welcome" in the centre, was built at the main entrance to the club.

Shortly after 9 o'clock his Lordship Bishop Pozzoni arrived, and was received by the committee and conducted to his seat. The function began by an address of welcome delivered by Mr. J. D. Osmund, the vice-president of the institution, who related to his Lordship and the assembly a short account of the career of the Catholic Union, which was started with a roll of only 15 members some seven years ago, and which has now grown to be an important centre for the Roman Catholic youths of the Colony. The club had now a large roll of members, two billiard tables, a stage and scenery, and a varied and select collection of magazines and periodicals for the use of the members. Mr. Osmund concluded by presenting the Bishop with a 400-days clock and a chronometer on behalf of the members, and by calling for three cheers for his Lordship, which was heartily responded to.

Senhor Romano was next asked to unveil the portrait of his Lordship, which he did and addressed a few words in Portuguese to the Bishop asking him for his assistance and co-operation on behalf of the Union, of which he is the honorary president.

His Lordship then rose to return thanks for the welcome accorded to him, replying to Mr. Osmund in English and to Senhor Romano in his own language.

Light refreshments were then served to all. The Band of the 119th Mooltans, by kind permission of the officers, was present and enlivened the proceedings with a selection of music.

SPECIAL SERVICE AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

A special service took place on the 14th October in the St. Joseph's Church, which was numerously attended, the congregation being mainly composed of the British Roman Catholics including many sailors and soldiers. His Lordship Bishop Pozzoni was also present, and was dressed in his full episcopal robes. The mass was read by the Rev. Father Zamponi, who was assisted by several other Italian priests. The chaplain, Rev. Augustin, preached the sermon and also acted as the organist for the first time. The choir was composed of Chinese seminarists from the Italian Mission House, and the mass was sung to Gregorian music. After the mass Bishop Pozzoni officiated at Benediction and, at the request of the chaplain, the congregation adjourned to the St. Patrick's Hall when the service was over to pay their respects to the newly elected prelate. A photograph was afterwards taken of the congregation with Bishop Pozzoni in the centre.

A WEARY BEACHCOMBER.

As a local resident was walking along Queen's Road on the 17th October he was accosted, he says, by a "beachcomber" who told him the usual story about having starved for so many days. All he wanted was a few cents to buy a meal. His hearer advised him to go to the House of Detention. The beachcomber asked to be shown the way there. The gentleman took him to the junction of Queen's Road and Pottinger Street, from whence he directed him. After gazing up the hill for a few seconds the beachcomber put his hand in his trouser's pocket, extracted three or four twenty cent pieces, and turning to the gentleman said—"Say! How much will it cost to take a chair up there?"

COLLISION IN THE WEST RIVER.

CHINESE TORPEDO BOAT SUNK.

A collision between the s.s. *Tai On* and the Chinese torpedo boat *U Sui* took place on October 17th, fortunately without involving any loss of life. It is not known exactly how the disaster occurred, but the former vessels which was on a voyage from Hongkong to Canton, reports that when opposite Kong Sha, steaming in Chinese waters, the torpedo boat suddenly appeared in front. It was impossible then to avoid a collision, and the vessels crashed into each other. The *U Sui* quickly filled with water and sank shortly after the impact. Her crew were taken off in safety and brought to Hongkong.

Another account of the collision is given by a passenger on board the *Tai On*. The vessel had just got out of the river at Lan Keet Island when a boat was noticed right ahead. As she had only a mast light showing, they concluded she was stationary or moving very slowly, but suddenly she came forward across the *Tai On's* bow. The latter's engines were reversed, but too late to avoid collision, and she struck the other vessel, which proved to be the Chinese torpedo boat *U. Lui* abaft the engine room. A boat was launched from the *U. Lui* which took off two or three men, while the chief officer of the *Tai On* promptly took off the remainder in their boats. The stricken craft drifted some little distance off, but the tide washed her back and she sank 25 minutes after the collision alongside the *Tai On*, all her crew of 24 being saved. So eager were some of the Chinese to save their personal effects from the sinking ship that they jumped on board her when she came alongside and rushed below for their belongings. Some of them narrowly escaped going down with her, and only scrambled on board the *Tai On* just as their craft disappeared.

COLLISION AT WOOSUNG.

A collision occurred about half past seven on the morning of the 8th inst. on the river about a mile above Black Point between the C.N.S. *Tamsui* and the C.M.S. *Anping*, both vessels being outward bound. As the overtaking ship, the *Anping* attempted to pass the *Tamsui* on the starboard side, but altering her helm before she was clear, the anchors of the *Tamsui* fouled the davit stanchions of the other vessel, smashed the steam pipe for the winches and her cargo ports, besides damaging the accommodation ladder. Locked together the two vessels drifted toward the Shanghai shore, the *Anping* eventually taking the ground whilst the *Tamsui*, reversing her engines managed to get clear and into deep water again.

The *Tamsui* sustained damage to her bulwarks and has two holes in one of her plates on the starboard side. She put back to Shanghai for temporary repairs, whilst the *Anping* after getting off proceeded on her journey.—N.-C. Daily News.

VICEROY CHANG'S RAILWAY LOAN.

A Peking telegram to the N.-C. Daily News says:—

"The agreement between H. E. Chang Chih-tung and the British Government provides that the latter shall advance the sum of Tls. 10,000,000 at 4½ per cent interest, the loan to be for a term of twenty years. The security given is the opium revenue of Kuangtung, Hupei, and Hupeh. It is also provided that half of the foreign engineers for the Hankow-Canton railway shall be British, and in case any further foreign loan is needed, Great Britain shall have the first option of taking it.

There are many officials in Peking opposed to the agreement, and the Board of Commerce (Shanghai) has been ordered to arrange for the redemption of the loan earlier; while in future no foreign loan is to be raised (for railway purposes)."

[As the agreement appeared in the Chinese newspaper *Universal Gazette*, the loan was stated to be for ten years, and no reference was made therein to the employment of British engineers, or to Britain being given a first option of taking up a further foreign loan if any is needed.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

The total number of Chinese in the Transvaal on August 31 was 44,565.

Our Foochow contemporary reports the death of Mr. Joseph Phillips, one of the oldest residents in the port, having been twenty-six years there.

Mr. W. J. Kenny, the British Consul-General at Manila, is going home on leave of absence. Mr. E. L. S. Cordon, the vice-consul, becomes Acting Consul General, and Mr. J. N. Sidebottom (of Messrs. Smith, Bell & Co.) will act as Vice-Consul.

A number of advertising pocket dictionaries, sent by an American firm to Queen's College for distribution among the students, on being distributed on Monday were torn to pieces. Evidently, the boycott is still a factor to be reckoned with by Americans in Hongkong.

Mr. Walter John Daniel was on Oct. 12 admitted by Mr. A. G. Wise (Puisne Judge) to the role of solicitors and proctors practising in the Supreme Court of Hongkong. The motion for his admission was presented by Mr. Pollock, K.C., and his Lordship said he had much pleasure in admitting Mr. Daniel and trusted that his stay in the colony would be advantageous. Mr. Daniel was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Judicature in England on 4th June, 1902.

At his sales rooms on the 9th October Mr. G. P. Lammett put up for sale by public auction the piece of ground known as Inland Lot No. 1405 together with the messuage thereon known as No. 40 Caine Road. The ground has an area of 1,967 square feet or thereabouts, and the term of the lease is for 9.9 years. Bidding opened at \$1,400 and rose by bids of \$100 to \$16,500, at which price the lot was knocked down to Mr. Lai Kwai Pui, merchant. Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master were the solicitors for the mortgages.

On Oct. 14th the annual camp of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps at Stonecutters Island was opened under very favourable auspices. The usual site is occupied by bell tents, instead of the square shaped tents of former years, but in other respects the camp is arranged as before. By Saturday evening the majority of volunteers had entered camp numbering in all about 140, under the command of Major Pritchard. The other officers present were Captains Armsrong, D. Macdonald, Skinner, and Lammett; Lieutenants Crake, Northcote, Scott Plummer; Second-Lieutenants Kennett, Gubbay, Hayton and Forsyth.

Viceroy Shum requested Cheong Pat-Sze some time ago to establish water works in Canton. Cheong has now replied that his hands are fully occupied, and that he is unable to undertake the work at present. Viceroy Shum thinks this is a very important matter, indeed, and that it is absolutely necessary to establish such works in Canton. He has carefully studied the matter and has come to the conclusion that a sum of 1,200,000 taels will be sufficient to carry the scheme through. He intends to obtain 300,000 taels from the Salt Comptroller, 200,000 taels from the I. M. C., and will call on the gentry to subscribe the balance.

A correspondent of the *P. & T. Times* writes:—"I have just returned from Mukden, where all was quiet and the country very flourishing. The harvests in Manchuria are expected to be the best in the memory of the oldest people, despite the fact that labour has been and is very scarce. The country has never been so full of ready money. In bygone years trade was all done, or nearly so, by promissory notes; but owing to two huge armies, both spending money is plentiful everywhere. The very battlefields south of Mukden are rich with corn. Once peace is assured and communication open, there will be an unprecedented demand for clothing and also luxuries hardly indulged in in past years. The natives seem to be hardened as regards the land fighting, and in the actual war zone they seem to be going on as per usual, and but little land has remained uncultivated. Many towns have still more than their normal population, as many village women and children prefer to remain in the large centres. From many enquiries one learns that on the whole both armies have behaved as well as could be expected to the natives. That there has been local suffering, and this sometimes acute, goes without saying, but the people quickly recuperate in the naturally rich country."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

HANKOW, 11th October. — Business reported since the 4th inst., is as under:—

	1905.	1904.
Settlements	1,355	nil.
S'ments to S'hai (Nat. a/c)	nil.	nil.

Consisting of the following Teas:—

	1905.	1904.
Oopacks	451 at Tls. 17.50 per picul.	
Oonams	120 at Tls. 13.60 per picul.	
Oonfaas	267 at Tls. 17.75 per picul.	
Ichangs	517 at Tls. 22.00 per picul.	

The following are statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular of last season, viz., 12th October, 1904:—

	1905.	1904.
HANKOW TEA.	1-Chests	1-Chests.
Settlements...	440,017	583,841
S'ments to S'hai (Nat. a/c)	13,252	34,604
Stock	46,671	3,000

	1905.	1904.
Arrivals	499,940	621,445

	1905.	1904.
KIUKIANG TEA.	1-Chests.	1-Chests.
Settlements...	177,880	195,538
S'ments to S'hai (Nat. a/c)	9,779	18,037
Stock	nil.	nil.

	1905.	1904.
Arrivals	187,659	213,575

SILK.

CANTON, 7th October, 1905. — 6th Crop. — Is expected to be of a very good quality, but at present the reports as to the quantity are contradictory. Long-reels. — European buyers in general continue unable to pay the local prices for Steam Filatures, and only a dragging business has ensued. On the lower level now asked for "Natives," a comparatively fair number of transactions have been booked in 11/13-13/15-14/18. From sales made we quote: Fres. On Wo Hing 9/11, at \$920; Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13, at \$860; Petit le. ordre 13/15, at \$840; Bon 2me. ordre 13/22, at \$760; Best 3me. ordre 11/13-13/15-14/18, at from \$750-\$780; Bon 3me. ordre 11/13-13/15-14/18, at \$720. Short-reels. — Have been neglected, and may be quoted slightly weaker at the close. Waste Silk. — Has advanced largely under native speculation in the interior, where the bulk of stock is now held, while supplies in the hands of Canton Dealers are very light. Country prices are still very firm and, at present Exchange rates show a laying down cost much above the prices that Foreign buyers can pay. Stock of Silk in Canton: 1,600 bales.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 18th October.

Quotations are:—	Allow'ce net to 1 catty.
Malwa New	\$1120 to — per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1200 to — do.
Malwa Older	\$1220 to — do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1230 to — do.
Persian fine quality	\$1150 to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$1200 to — do.
Patna New	\$1017 to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$1035 to — do.
Benares New	\$999 to — do.
Benares Old	\$990 to — do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their Coal Report of Oct. 20th, state that 15 steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 86,800 tons of coal. Since October, 6th, 11 steamers have arrived with a total of 39,600 tons of coal. The market generally rules much firmer. Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$15.00 \$16.00 ex-ship, nominal
Australian	\$10.00 \$11.00 ex-ship, nominal.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 nominal.
Milki Lump	\$11.00 to \$12.00 nominal.
Moji Lump	\$10.50 to \$11.00 ex-ship steady.
Akaike Lump	\$10.50 to \$11.00 steady.

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 20th October. — No sales reported, market very quiet. Stock about 3,000 bales.

Bombay	\$19.00 to \$20.00 per picul.
Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca	20.00 to 23.50 "
Shanghai and Japanese	25.00 to 26.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo	25.00 to 2.600 "

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee, in his Report, dated Hongkong, 20th October, says:—Business continues in the same dull, unsatisfactory state as previously mentioned, no signs of the long expected improvement in demand being apparent, and the market is passing through a period of unusual depression. There is a wide difference between the ideas of buyers and sellers, but the latter are weak and would concede much to induce business. Dealers have still a large quantity of goods on hand, with which, together with the goods now arriving, they are meeting their late country sales. Increasing stocks, combined with the tightness of money amongst the natives, preclude the possibility of any improvement taking place in the near future, and unless importations are checked, we are afraid a still lower range of values will be current. Total settlements of the fortnight aggregate 3,526 bales comprised mostly of No. 10s. Receipts (12,298 bales) have been comparatively small during the interval, but are still greatly in excess of the off-takes, and our stock (57,000 bales) shows a further increase on last estimate.

Latest telegrams from Bombay make that market very strong, as all the local Mills are now working shorter hours and production, in all probability, will be reduced.

Local Manufacture:—No business in reported. Japanese Yarn:—Continues quiet.

Raw Cotton:—Despite small stocks and restricted arrivals Indian descriptions continue lifeless. In China kinds a sale of 75 bales Thoong-chow is reported at \$26 to \$25½. Unsold stock Bengal 2,800 bales and China 400 bales. Quotations are \$20 to \$23 Indian, and \$24 to \$26 China.

Exchange on India has continued steady with slight fluctuations and closes to-day at Rs. 145½ for T/T and Rs. 145½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½ and on Yokohama 95½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the three weeks ended the 14th instant, viz:—

Indian:—Market dull and rates unsteady; total business of the fortnight amounting to 6,179 bales with an estimated unsold stock of 75,000 bales.

Japanese:—Market firm and prices steady; sales reported being 3,000 bales on the basis of Tls. 93 to 100½ for No. 16s, and Tls. 102 to 108½ for No. 20s.

Local:—Sales of 3,000 bales No. 14s at Tls. 92 and of 8,000 bales No. 16s at Tls. 94 are reported, market closing firm and prices unaltered.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Report on the Shanghai Piece Goods Trade, dated Shanghai, 12th October, 1905, states:—Although the Autumn is now far advanced there are few signs of any revival in the trade demand and importers are beginning to look askance at their rapidly accumulating stocks. The fact is constantly being borne in upon them that supplies are coming in faster than they go out, and the dread of heavy, excessive stocks to carry through the winter is once more haunting them. And yet in spite of the enormous quantities that are under contract to arrive during the next nine or ten months some have the temerity to book further indents at extravagant prices for yet more distant delivery, reducing the trade to a simple gamble. It is not worthy that the leading firms are abstaining from this, and are actually discouraging their principle buyers from doing likewise, and are thus striving to put the trade, once more, on a healthy footing, which it certainly is not now. The present state was no doubt caused by the speculative anticipations as to what would take place when peace was declared, without properly considering the necessary delays and disappointments that must arise before the country can resume its normal condition. Already there are signs of grave complications that may delay the evacuation of the belligerent forces for months, if not years. The strong hint lately published that Russia does not intend to withdraw the main part of her forces beyond easy striking distance of recently contested territory must delay the withdrawal of the bulk of Japan's forces, if not entirely abrogate the peace proposals so far arranged. That she is jealously safeguarding her rights is seen by the frequent captures of blockade runners that have attempted to make the harbour of Vladivostok, so she is not likely to ratify the peace conditions without having so absolutely unassailable guarantees that what she has been fighting and draining her exchequers for shall be fully and thoroughly carried out. The question as to whether that stumbling block may arise, and so put trade conditions back again, should be earnestly studied by importers, and by it their future operations should be governed. But that is neither here or there, and does not particularly concern the trade of the

past week on which we have to report. To most Importers we are inclined to think it has been "rotten." Goods from stock it is almost impossible to move, and orders for fresh business seem to have been the exception. It is true there is a superfluity of enquiry, and telegrams galore have been passing between this and the producing centres, but the resultant trade cannot have paid the expenses incurred in the majority of instances. The steady slumps in Cotton has not made much impression on the home markets so far, but there is no doubts quotations for staple goods are lower, though prices are very irregular, and orders for cargo least expected to go through have been executed and vice versa. Regular Manchester quotations received to-day are three half pence lower for 8.4-lbs. Shirtings, three pence half-penny for 10-lbs. and four pence half-penny for 12-lbs., with four pence reduction in Drills. This is of course the result of the fall in Cotton; the latest Liverpool quotation being 5.27d. for Mid-American and 7½d. for Egyptian. In New York the last price for January was 9.75 cents. The drop was evidently anticipated by Spinners in Lancashire who for some time past have been buying from hand to mouth. The eagerness of buyers for this market has kept prices steady in New York, some recent transactions being reported at extravagant prices. The latest advices from our dependencies are far from exhilarating. Szechuen is still suffering from the effects of the recent floods there and is sending very few orders down. Hankow is as dull as can be, causing great anxiety to holders here of some of her specialities in Cloth. The Ports lower down the River have suffered from an over-abundance of water which will no doubt affect the Rice crops, so the outlook is not at all bright in those regions. The nearer markets must have got a plethora of damaged goods with which their wants will be amply supplied for some time to come. Newchwang is full up for the moment, but doubtless she will take further considerable quantities before the river closes. Tientsin is in much the same state and shipments thence during interval have been small. The Yarn market is very quiet, which, apart from the generally depressed state of the Yangtze markets, is no doubt affected by the large amount of flood damaged Yarns still hanging over it. Local Spinings are doing well, but the production is restricted owing to the majority of the Mills finding it impossible to carry on night work successfully. Cotton is coming down and the Mills have been able to make some further satisfactory contracts.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Bayern*, sailed on 11th October. For Aden:—750 bags sugar, 150 cases cassia, 52 rolls chinaware. For Port Said:—5 cases tea, 1 case cigars. For Alexandrette:—1 roll matting. For Naples:—925 half-chests tea, 1 bale waste silk. For Genoa:—302 bales waste silk, 200 boxes cassia, 185 bales raw silk, 10 cases essential oil, 5 packages tea, 4 cases hemp. For Antwerp:—40 cases cassia, 25 cases bristles, 19 bales leaf tobacco, 19 bales feathers. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—50 cases bristles. For Antwerp or Hamburg or London:—12 cases bristles. For Antwerp or Bremen or Hamburg:—134 half-chests tea. For Amsterdam:—100 boxes cassia, 12 cases ginger, 6 cases chinaware. For Rotterdam:—40 half-chests tea. For Bremen:—296 half-chests tea, 29 rolls matting, 29 cases sundries. For Hamburg:—470 half-chests tea, 353 bales feathers, 80 cases essential oil, 74 rolls matting, 50 cases ginger, 25 cases ginger, 24 cases blackwoodware, 20 cases sundries, 10 cases human hair, 4 cases chinaware, 3 cases feathers, 1 case palm leaf fans, 1 case grass cloth. For Copenhagen:—70 cases ginger, 25 half-chests tea, 25 cases ginger, 5 cases ginger, 3 rolls matting.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 20th October, 1905,

Apricot	\$24 to \$26
Borax	\$14 " \$17
Cassia	\$14 " \$19.75
Cloves	\$20 " \$36
Camphor	\$130 " —
Cow Bezoar	\$120 " \$155
Fennel Seed	\$5 " \$8
Galangal	\$2 " \$5
Grapes	\$15 " \$20
Kismis	\$18 " \$23
Glue	\$24 " \$27
Olibanum	\$4 " \$17
Oil Sandalwood	\$200 " \$340
" Rosa	\$59 " \$150
" Cassia	\$154 " —
Kaisins	\$12 " \$14
Senna Leaves	\$2 " \$9
Sandalwood	\$24 " \$28
Saltpetre	\$11.50 to \$12.50

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 20th October.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	245
Credits 4 months' sight	249½
ON GERMANY.—On demand	
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	
Bank, on demand	145½
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	
Bank, on demand	145½
ON HANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	
ON MANILA.—On demand	
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	
ON SAIGON.—On demand	
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	
SEVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10 15
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$53.70
BAR SILVER, per oz.	28½

SHARE REPORT 3.

HONGKONG, 20th October, 1905.—Although the market continues abnormally dull, a desultory business in a few stocks has prevented utter stagnation, and we are able to say that a comparatively fair business has been transacted in a dislocated sort of way. Rates, however, are very irregular, and any continuity is not to be counted upon for any length of time.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands at \$907½ in the early part of the week, and at \$905 later, the market closing with buyers at the latter rate. Nationals unchanged.

MARINE INSURANCES.—have all, with the single exception of Yangtszes, been in demand, and rates generally under this heading show an improvement. Unions are enquired for at \$745 ex the dividend of \$40 paid to-day; but there seems to be a scarcity of shares for sale. Cantons have advanced to \$347½ with a small business. China Traders have further improved to \$87 with buyers, after sales during the week at \$83, \$84, \$85 and \$86. At time of closing buyers rule the market. North Chinas have advanced after the issue of their Report to Tls. 87½, and a higher price could probably be obtained for a limited number of shares.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs and Chinas remain unchanged with a small business at quotations.

SHIPPING.—With the exception of a small business in Indo-Chinas at \$93½ and \$94, and a firmer tendency in that stock, we have nothing to report.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have further declined to \$227 without business. Luzons unchanged but weak at \$15.

MINING.—No change or business to report.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been placed at \$180 and close with further buyers at that rate. Kowloon Wharves have found buyers at \$107½, and close firm at that. Farnhams are quoted in Shanghai at Tls. 144 sellers, and shares are also obtainable here at that rate, after small sales.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have been placed in small unimportant lots at \$126 and \$126½, closing firm at the latter rate. Humphreys' have improved to \$13 with sales at that and \$12½, closing with buyers at the latter and sellers at the former rate. Hongkong Hotels continue in request both for cash and time, without bringing any shares on the market.

COTTON MILLS.—No business or change to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—With the exception of a few Steam Waterboats at \$4, Cements at \$29½, China Providents at \$9, and Dairy Farms at \$7½, we have nothing to report under this heading.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

QUOTATIONS.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Alhambra	\$200	\$100
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai	\$125	\$905, buyers London, £92.10
National B. of China	25	\$38, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12s. 6d.	\$7, buyers
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11.75, sellers
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$10, sellers
China Provident	\$10	\$9, sales
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 57, buyers
Hongkong	\$10	\$14½, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 44
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 61
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 250, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$17½, sellers
Docks & Wharves—		
Farnham, B. & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 144, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$107½, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$180, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$17
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 187½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$27, sellers
G. Island Cement	\$10	\$29½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$175, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15½
Do. New	\$5	\$9½
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$215, buyers
Hongkong Hotel Co.	\$50	\$147, buyers
Hongkong Ice Co.	\$25	\$235, sellers
Hongkong Rope Co.	\$50	\$152
H'kong S. Waterboat	\$10	\$14, sales & sellers
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$347½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$89
China Traders	\$25	\$87, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 87½, buyers
Union	\$100	\$745, ex div., buy.
Yangtsze	\$60	\$172½
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	\$100	\$126½, buyers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$12½, buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$40, buyers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 122, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10	\$3½
Philippine Co.	\$10	\$7, sellers
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$227, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$15
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$18, buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$32, sellers
H. Canton & M.	\$15	\$26½, sellers
Indo-China S.N. Co.	\$10	\$94, buyers
Shell Transport Co.	\$1	22/- sales
Do. Preference	\$10	\$8, 10s.
Star Ferry	\$10	\$32, sellers
Do. New	\$5	\$25, sellers
Shanghai & H. Dyeing	\$5½	\$50
South China M. Post.	\$25	\$20, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$8, buyers
Do. New	\$3	\$7½
Stores & Dispensaries.		
Campbell, M. & Co.	\$10	\$36
Powell & Co., Wm.	\$10	\$11½, sales & sellers
Watkins	\$10	\$6½, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, sellers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9
Do. Founders	\$10	\$160

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending the 12th October, 1905, states:—There has been only a limited business since our last report, and rates have not varied to any extent except in Hongkong and Shanghai Banks, which gradually improved. Speculative stocks have been quiet, and at the close there is hardly any business doing. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/8½. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. A few shares changed hands in the early part of the week at \$307.50, exchange 71½; on the 11th shares were placed at \$920 ex 71½, and at this rate there are buyers of small lots. The Hongkong quotations are \$915 sales, and the latest London quotation is £94. Marine and Fire Insurance.—The only business reported is in China Traders at \$81 ex 71½. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. Since our last there has been very little done in this stock, and rates remain the same, namely Tls. 67 to 67½ for October, Tls. 68 for November, and Tls. 69 for December. Shanghai

Tugs. Ordinary shares have been placed at Tls. 57½ and Preference at Tls. 47. Mining.—A fair business has taken place in Chinese Engineering and Mining Co. shares at Tls. 10 for cash B.S., and Tls. 975 L.S. A slight improvement took place towards the end of this week, and Tls. 10.10 and 10.20 for B.S. were done. Weihaiwei Golds. A few shares were dealt in at \$9 and \$8.75 for cash. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyds. Only a few transactions have taken place, and rates remain the same, namely, Tls. 145 to 144 for October, and Tls. 148 and 147½ for December. Shanghai and Hongkong V. Harf Co. have suffered a slight decline, from Tls. 187½ for October to Tls. 185, at which rate there are buyers at the close. Shares have changed hands at Tls. 198 for December. Sugars.—No business reported. Lands.—Shanghai Lands have been placed at Tls. 122 with sellers prevailing. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons were dealt in on the 5th at Tls. 54 for October, but no shares are to be had at this figure now. We should quote the rate at Tls. 56. Laou Kung Mows have been placed at Tls. 60 for December, Internationals at Tls. 45 for October, and China Flours were sold at Tls. 83, jumping immediately to Tls. 86. We should quote the rate at closing as Tls. 85. Shanghai Gas Co. There are buyers at Tls. 123.50 for cash. Green Island Cements. There are buyers locally at \$28.50, and in Hongkong at \$29. Maatschappij, etc., in Langkats. Only a small business has been done this week, closing with a slight decline on the prices ruling at the commencement, and shares can be had at Tls. 245 for October and Tls. 252½ for December. The market is quiet with very little doing. Shanghai Waterworks. Shares can be placed at Tls. 450 cash. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz have sellers at \$26; Weeks and Co. have buyers at \$20. Astor House have changed hands at \$27. Miscellaneous.—Horse Bazaars. There are sales at Tls. 75. Loans and Debentures.—Astor House 8 per cent. have changed hands at Tls. 105.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 20th October.—During the past two weeks freights have ruled steady. From Saigon to this, 10 cents nominal; to Philippines, several fixtures at 26 cents to 28½ cents per picul according to size and position; to Java, 25 cents; to Japan, 28 cents last. North Coast Java to this, 25 cents paid for a part cargo. Bangkok to Hongkong, 29 cents and 23 cents per picul. Newchwang to Canton, a more steamers have been closed for partcargoes at 25 and 26 cents respectively; to Amoy, 25 cents. South Japan coal port to Hongkong, \$1.50 last; to Singapore, \$1.75 last. Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.75. Time Charters.—The German steamer *Elita Nossack* has been closed for Newchwang/Canton trade. The following are the settlement:—

Sophie Rickmers—German steamer, 2,262 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$1.75 per ton.

Progrès—German steamer, 799 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 25 cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, *Newchwang* to Canton, 26 cents per picul.

Fenay Lodge—British steamer, 2,075 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Dundas—British steamer, 1,95½ tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Dskdale—British steamer, 1,926 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.50 per ton.

Loyal—German steamer, 1,237 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.75 per ton.

Hedwig Menzell—German steamer, 980 tons, one port North Coast Java to Hongkong (part cargo), 25 cents per picul.

Holsteir—German steamer, 1,103 tons, Saigon to one or two ports Philippines, 28½ and 31½ cents per picul.

Heimdal—Norwegian steamer, 761 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 27 cents per picul.

Bourbon—French steamer, 901 tons, Saigon to, one port Philippines (27,000 piculs) 26 cents per picul.

Elita Nossack—German steamer, 1,161 tons monthly, 2 months, at \$6,000 per month.

FREIGHTS.

Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Freight Market Report, dated Shanghai, 12th October, 1905, states:—The Homeward Freight Market still remains as before with no change since our last. Coastwise.—We note a slight improvement in this market reflected chiefly by a small rise in Coal Freights. In two weeks more, however, we look to see an improvement in the river trade for which enquiries are already in the market.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

October—

ARRIVALS.

15, Deucalion, British str., from Liverpool.
 15, Dr. H. J. Kiaer, Norw. str., from Canton.
 15, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 15, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 15, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 15, Lothian, British str., from Glasgow.
 15, Promise, Norwegian str., from Anping.
 15, Signal, German str., from Haiphong.
 15, Slavonia, German str., from Shanghai.
 15, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., from Macassar.
 15, Tholma, Norwegian str., from Meji.
 16, Caledonien, French str., from Shanghai.
 16, Chowfa, German str., from Bangkok.
 16, Halvard, Norwegian str., from Samarang.
 16, Laisang, British str., from Calcutta.
 16, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 16, Pakhoi, British str., from Manila.
 16, Salazie, French str., from Marseilles.
 16, Trimmo, German str., from Saigon.
 16, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 17, Benlawers, British str., from Meji.
 17, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.
 17, Hangsang, British str., from Canton.
 17, Kohsichang, Ger. str., from Kohsichang.
 17, Lisa, Swedish str., from Shanghai.
 17, Mazagon, British str., from Bombay.
 17, P. Waldemar, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 17, Tsinan, British str., from Sydney.
 17, Vorwärts, German str., from Tsintau.
 18, Athenian, British str., from Vancouver.
 18, Cecilia, German str., from Rangoon.
 18, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., from Tamsui.
 18, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Sourabaya.
 18, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 18, Hong Bee, British str., from Swatow.
 18, Kaifong, British str., from Iloilo.
 18, Keong wai, German str., from Bangkok.
 18, Luchs, German gunboat, from Amoy.
 18, Phra Nang, Ger. str., from Kohsichang.
 18, Pronto, Norwegian str., from Hoihow.
 18, Trieste, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 19, Arcadia, British str., from Bombay.
 19, Chusan, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Emma Luyken, Ger. str., from Sourabaya.
 19, J. Liederichsen, Ger. str., from Hoihow.
 19, Kweilin, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Tolfond, Norwegian str., from Rangoon.
 19, Zaida, British str., from Rangoon.

October—

DEPARTURES.

15, Agamemnon, British str., for London.
 15, Amigo, German str., for Hoihow.
 15, Andromeda, British 4-m. bk., for Australia.
 15, Daijin Maru, Japanese str., for Tamsui.
 15, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Pitsanu'ok, German str., for Bangkok.
 15, Proteus, Norwegian str., for Rangoon.
 15, Stettin, British str., for Canton.
 15, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
 15, Yunnan, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Zweena, British str., for Amoy.
 16, Ailsacraig, British str., for Kuchipootzu.
 16, Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
 16, Chingtu, British str., for Australia.
 16, Deucalion, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
 16, Salazie, French str., for Shanghai.
 16, Triumph, German str., for Shanghai.
 17, Anamba, Danish str., for Yokohama.
 17, Atlantis, Amr. str., for Saigon.
 17, Caledonien, French str., for Europe.
 17, China, American str., for San Francisco.
 17, Glenlochy, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Hailan, French str., for Pakhoi.
 17, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 17, Lothian, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Poona, British str., for Shanghai.
 17, Samsen, German str., for Bangkok.
 17, Signal, German str., for Deli.
 17, Tean, British str., for Manila.
 17, Tholma, Norwegian str., for Meji.
 18, Callao, U.S. gunboat, for Canton.
 18, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 18, Empr. of China, British str., for Vancouver.
 18, Hellas, German str., for Shanghai.
 18, Heim, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 18, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 18, Pakhoi, British str., for Tsintau.
 18, Prinz Waldemar, Ger. str., for Australia.
 18, Promise, Norwegian str., for Anping.
 18, Slavonia, German str., for Hamburg.
 18, Strathnevis, British str., for Panerukan.

19, Cecilia, German str., for Yokohama.
 19, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Hangsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Haimun*, from Swatow, Mr. Thomas.
 Per *Mausang*, from Sandakan, Mr. Clark.
 Per *Petchaburi*, from Bangkok, Mr. Wilhelm.
 Per *Wingsang*, from Wuhu, &c., Miss Johns and Miss E. Johns.
 Per *Tjilatjap*, from Java, Miss E. Apol.
 Per *Signal*, from Haiphong, &c., Capt. Grundelins and family.
 Per *Haitan*, from Coast Ports, Messrs. H. P. White, Kenny, Wills, Evans, and Miss Evans.
 Per *Kwangtah*, from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Tonkin, Miss Tonkin, Messrs. C. Tonkin, Jr., F. Glass and Pitcairn.
 Per *Chingtu*, from Japan, Miss Hill, Mrs. Quinn, Mrs. Kow, Major and Mrs. Kaye, Mr. and Mrs. Muir, Messrs. Blake, Darton, Austin, R. Osawa, and Comdr. Winthrop.
 Per *Slavonia*, from Shanghai, Russian Consul and Mrs. Fredeman and two children, Captain and Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Von Berg, Mrs. Geamder, and Dr. Saunders.
 Per *Caledonien*, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Messrs. Suco and Skott; from Kobe, Messrs. Ehrhardt and Kobayoshi; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Kent, J. J. Lyons Payrell and J. Poyrell, Mr. Bastien, Mr. and Mrs. de Ste. Croix, Messrs. Karl Oldorp, B. Pinta, P. Roudon, Band and Salomon; for Saigon from Yokohama, Messrs. Saba and Takano; for Singapore from Yokohama, Mrs. E. Eckland, Messrs. Basarnal, Ryhoomall; from Shanghai, Messrs. Timmers and Sobagashira, and Mrs. Alexandrowa and child; for Calcutta from Yokohama, Mr. Durrant; for Bombay from Kobe, Mr. Takihomen; for Suez from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Diamanti; for Port Said from Shanghai, Mr. d'Angelo; for Marseilles from Yokohama, Messrs. Cassaneda, Lera, Buckens, Guilhon, Niembia and Luidguist; from Kobe, Mr. Lipdersen; from Shanghai, Messrs. d'Onjon, Gremberg, Teiffenberg, Mrs. Zawesky and child, Messrs. O. Mousanto, Jr., Oldenburger, Colloart, Goudouine, Libhal, Dandoursean, Mercier and Paoli.
 Per *Loongsang*, from Manila, Messrs. J. C. Miller, A. W. Armstrong, W. O. Thornton, Jose Luis de Otero, F. S. Allen, Jiff de Potter, Capt. York Noel, U.S.N., and Mrs. A. K. Risser.
 Per *Salazie*, for Hongkong from Marseilles, Mr. C. L. Santos; from Aden, Mrs. Antonio de Paide Gomes and Ant. Augusta Ferreira; from Colombo, Mr. Tossing and Major Copeman; from Singapore, Messrs. Fuzioka and Tagata; from Saigon, Mrs. Maingault and Mr. James Watson; for Shanghai from Marseilles, Messrs. Briant, Montassier, Corlut Grutille, Bertrand, E. H. Cox, Rossignon and Eng. Georges; from Suez, Mrs. Tarota de Larena; from Singapore, Mrs. Mary, Mrs. F. Feltman, Mrs. Fanny, Mrs. Trina, Mrs. J. Hermann, Mrs. Binder, and Mrs. Scheidermann; from Saigon, Mr. Donin, Mrs. E. Blanc, Mrs. Charlotte, Mrs. Malvina Luzzena, Mrs. Ida Weinstein, Mrs. Rose Ehrlich, Mrs. Clarar Marcies, Mrs. Marie, Mrs. M. Hariton, Messrs. Lanouquere, Triolo, Ponti, Simon, Carlowitz, and Mrs. Ida Beaumann, for Kobe from Marseilles, Messrs. Vendrill, Domballe and Masaoka; from Singapore, Messrs. John Goodacre and Yoshida; for Yokohama from Marseilles, Mr. Allix, Baroness Statemath, Messrs. Berthet and Yamanaka; from Singapore, Messrs. Bagamuth, Nakagawa and Walter Kudson.
 Per *Zafiro*, from Manila, Messrs. D. White, W. E. Chumyath, E. A. Smith, J. P. Proctor, F. B. Parson, F. P. Robson, O. P. Malone, Jas. F. Quinn, J. F. Gregory, R. Hawzhurst, A. H. Barlow and Haukerson.
 Per *Trimmo*, from Saigon, Messrs. Breton and Engler.
 Per *Laisang*, from Calcutta, Mr. Aston.
 Per *Tsinan*, from Australia, etc., Mrs. and Miss Tuthill, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Knight, Capt. Davies, Master Brougham, Messrs. Javen, Kelly, Cowan, Brougham, Campbell and Cox.
 Per *Prinz Waldemar*, for Hongkong from Yokohama, Mr. O. Beyer, Mr. and Mrs. Y. Yabuki, Messrs. S. Gawa and Saito; from Kobe, Mrs. Nakamaru, Messrs. Kasahara, Imano Ume,

T. Ito, Y. Ito, Kazaoka and Schneider; for Singapore from Kobe, Mr. Nakamaru.

Per *Trieste*, from Singapore, Mr. S. Soaraz.
 Per *Daijin Maru*, from Tamsui, &c., Mr. and Mrs. Wright.

Per *Athenian*, from Vancouver, Mr. and Mrs. A. Morgan and 4 children, Mrs. Murphy and child, Mrs. A. Anderson, Mr. Carl Anderson, Mrs. J. Anderson, Messrs. P. J. Laird and D. H. Silas; from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Woodward and 2 children, Miss Barker and Mr. K. Kosuga; from Kobe, Messrs. F. B. Deacon, E. D. Simon, W. D. Bomand, Col. and Mrs. F. E. Kent, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Moxon, Capt. and Mrs. Harvey, Mr. A. F. Comrie, Sir and Lady F. C. Piggott; from Shanghai, Messrs. J. Miller, W. Goatz, R. Barry, J. T. de Figueriedo, Mrs. A. S. Marcell and child, Mrs. Kruger and 2 children, and Mr. A. G. Wood.

Per *Arcadia*, for Hongkong from London. Mr. and Mrs. Hewett, Mr. O. Hughes, Dr. D. H. Ainsley, Surg. J. D. Keir, Surg. C. J. Boncher, Mr. P. Jacks, Mrs. Mackie, Misses Mackie and Mabel Mackie; from Marseilles, Messrs. A. R. Low and A. U. R. Thomson; from Brindisi, Gen. and Mrs. Wood and Mr. H. Poole; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Kaplan, Mr. and Mrs. Nielson and two children; from Penang, Mr. G. Epligrave; from Singapore, Mr. H. W. Andrews; for Shanghai from London, Rev. and Mrs. Stobie and 3 children, Messrs. J. B. Miller, K. Ohlsen, O. Warren, Rev. Ed. Karlen, Messrs. J. Page, A. Hermand, R. K. Veryard, Misses Paton and R. Garriock, Mr. C. Knight, Miss Hollingsworth, Mrs. Sutherland, Messrs. H. Goldsworthy and B. L. Newman, Rev. and Mrs. Almbad, Messrs. R. Simmons, W. Smith, C. Rogers, S. Simpson, Dyson, and Mrs. Howell's child; from Marseilles, Dr. and Mrs. Hodge, Messrs. D. Davidson and A. S. Bremner; from Bombay, Mr. Amershi; for Yokohama from London, Mr. Kennelmann, Miss Strome, Rev. W. T. Grey, Mrs. Howell, Mrs. Brent, and Miss Challis; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Vetch and Mr. Storey Douglas; from Brindisi, Mr. A. Hartmann.

Per *Kweilin*, from Shanghai, &c., Mr. Hirst.

Per *Kwongsang*, from Shanghai, Mr. Carter.

Per *Zaida*, from Rangoon, &c., Miss Hunter.

DEPARTED.

Per *Salazie*, for Shanghai, Messrs. du Halgonet and Ebrahim Mooter, Mrs. Gameau, Mr. Johan Kometi, Frès Rev. Eveque Cenicatti, Mr. S. A. Ismail, Rev. P. Spada, and Mrs. Marguerite; for Kobe, Mr. H. M. Bain; for Yokohama, Messrs. J. Green Wood, K. Scitriadas, H. Engler, Thakurdos and P. Farsidis.

Per *Caledonien*, for Saigon, Mr. S. C. Ismail, Rev. P. A. Liegier, and Mr. S. Okumura; for Singapore, Messrs. W. Schadd and Frank Browne; for Colombo, Mr. Ardeshir Cavarje; for Marseilles, Messrs. Le Varat, Mear, Le Roux and Joany Bernard.

Per *China*, for China and Japan ports, Mr. W. Brown, Miss Rae Mills, Mr. H. A. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Hutton, Messrs. W. T. Puddepha, J. C. Miller, Jas. Watson, L. Comar, and A. K. Mababbay; for Honolulu, Mr. C. L. Wight; for San Francisco, &c., Mr. J. C. Metcalfe, Mrs. D. Gordon, Messrs. W. McLaughlin, A. M. Allison, J. H. Wallace, W. H. Holabird, Lieut. and Mrs. F. Holcomb, Mrs. E. P. Hammersley, Mr. C. H. Hanlin, Miss Helen Lord, Capt. York Noel, U.S.N., Messrs. Jeff. D. Potter, W. O. Thornton, Mrs. A. K. Risser, Capt. P. W. Davison, U.S.A., and Mr. R. E. N. Padfield.

Per *Empress of China*, for Vancouver, &c., Messrs. T. F. Kennedy, C. Cutler, Chas. Templeman, E. H. Low, Dr. G. N. Lewis, Mr. F. B. Parsons, Mons. P. Ole Nolsac, Mons. G. Teyssot, Mr. and Mrs. Holmgreen, Mr. and Mrs. Truman, Messrs. A. N. Humphreys, Mr. E. H. Brougham, Master A. Brougham, Messrs. G. N. Orme, E. S. K. d'orie, R. A. Gubbay, J. R. Michael, Miss M. E. Apol, Major H. C. Copeman, Mr. May C. Winn, Sgt. C. Millington, Misses Kelly and Hiven, Capt. McIntosh, Capt. J. R. Proctor, and Mrs. C. A. Walters.

Per *Prinz Waldemar*, for Herbertsbohe, Messrs. O. Beyer and A. Tholen; for Melbourne, Mrs. M. Boana.

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